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AND

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### REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS.

*The Castle of Ehrenstein.* By G. P. R. James, Esq.  
3 vols. Smith, Elder, and Co.

*The Castle of Ehrenstein* is another, though altogether a different, *Castle of Otranto*. It stands on a new field, for the author of so many works of other descriptions to cultivate; and shews what his ingenuity and labour can effect. He has already delighted the world by his developments of nature, and now has evoked the supernatural to try his strength, and add a zest to his acknowledged powers of able construction and deep interest.

"Sleep," he finely observes, when speaking of the proneness of the human mind to superstition,—"sleep itself has its sensation and its dream; and to him who wakes while all the rest are buried in forgetfulness, there is a constant looking for something assimilating in solemnity with the hour, and the darkness, and the silence, to break the unnatural lack of busy life that seems around. Oh, how fancy then wanders through the wide unoccupied extent, and seeks for something active like itself, and, debarred all communion with beings of earth, ventures into the unsubstantial world, and perchance finds a responding voice to answer her cry for companionship. It would seem that there is almost a contradiction in terms under the philosophy that admits the existence of a world of spirits, and yet denies that there can be any means of communication between that world and the spirits still clothed in flesh; but, even in the most sceptical, there are misdoings of their own unbelief; and to every one who thinks, there come moments when there arise such questions as these: Where lies the barrier between us and those above us—between us and those who have gone before? Can we speak across the gulf? Is it bridged over by any path? Is there a gulf indeed?—or, in this instance, as in all others through the universal scheme, is the partition but thin and incomplete that separates us from the order next above? Such are at least questions with all but the most purely worldly, even in a most purely worldly age; but, in the times I write of, doubts on such subjects were precluded by faith and by tradition."

Upon this condition of the living world has Mr. James founded his tale of the fifteenth century; and laid his scene on the banks of the Rhine. Admirable descriptions of that wild and beautiful locality, with its feudal castles, of barbarous tenantry and force; and the ruthless quarrels of their lords, and all their lawless deeds, supply pictures of the period such as the author can draw so well. And at the same time he realises the superstitions of that superstitious age, and with its wild huntsman, its charnel-houses, its murders, its voices, and ghosts, fills the dreaded unknown as vividly as the actual and familiar of customary existence.

But that we are forbidden to enter into these mysteries, as it would rob many a reader of much gratification in the perusal of the story, we could illustrate the appalling and imaginative parts with passages of daring vigour; but as we must abstain from such, we will endeavour to afford some idea of a similar vigour in the sketches by a single one of those features of feudalism with which the composition abounds. The Baron of Eppenfeld has stopped and robbed certain Venetian merchants, who, among their wares, were conveying a treasure belonging to him to the Count of Ehrenstein. This act brings on a feud between the ancient accomplices in tyranny and spoliation; and Ferdi-

hand, the hero of the work, in the train of the latter Count, is sent with ten armed followers to demand restitution or denounce vengeance.

"We are all well aware (continues the narrative) that there are certain of man's infirmities which may be turned to serve his own purposes when the exercise of his faculties might be dangerous or inconvenient. It may sometimes be pleasant to have no eyes, sometimes to have no ears; and we have known instances where it was believed judicious in certain parties to have no legs, till they were found for them by other parties interested in the progress of the recusants. Now the lords of Eppenfeld occasionally judged it expedient to be extremely hard of hearing; and in order to favour this infirmity as far as possible, no bell was attached to their gates, though these tinkling instruments had long before been introduced into common use, as the means of summoning porters or warders to answer the inquiries of the stranger, or to open the doors to the visitor. It would seem that they were fond of the usages of antiquity; for the only means provided for making oneself heard before their castle was the long-disused one of a large horn, suspended under the arch of an outwork in advance of the drawbridge, the sound of which might be heard or not by those within, as they liked. The Baron of Eppenfeld was seated at table on the evening of the day of which we have just been speaking, though the hour of dinner was long past, and that of supper not yet arrived. Human nature, however, is the same in all ages. We may smooth, and shape, and polish, and gild the stone, but the material remains unchanged, and the same propensities and habits become apparent whenever circumstances call them into action. Lightly won, and lightly spent, was as true a maxim in those days as in our own; and the predatory noble, or robber knight, was as sure to wind up any successful expedition with revelry and drunkenness, as the wrecker, the smuggler, or the footpad of modern times. The Baron of Eppenfeld had made a glorious sweep of the goods of the Venetian merchants; he had obtained more gold by an enterprise of little difficulty or danger than had ever warmed his coffers before; and consequently, the choice vintages of his cellars—though I cannot say they were the produce of his own vineyards—were doomed to flow for himself and his soldiery, in honour of the happy event. He was revelling, then, with the wine-cup in his hand, when the sound of the horn before the gates made itself heard in the hall. He and his companions had drunk for many an hour, and the eyes of several of the worthy gentlemen present were growing somewhat glassy and unmeaning. The Baron's own head, however, seemed made of the same cast-iron materials as his frame, and the quantity was infinite which he could absorb without any apparent effect. 'Ha!' he cried, as soon as the sound met his ear; 'go and look through the loophole, Stephen, and see who that is blowing the horn.'

The man to whom he spoke rose, and carried his flushed countenance and watery eyes to a loophole in the neighbouring tower, and, after an absence of about two minutes, returned to say, in not very distinct tones, 'It is a youth on horseback.' 'That young villain!—come for his share, I daresay,' said the Baron. 'Well, we'll give him his share, and take it from him afterwards. He has helped us to skin his lord, and so it is all fair for us to skin him.' A peal of laughter from his followers succeeded to this remarkably just and honourable observation of the Baron of Eppenfeld, in the midst

of which the man Stephen grumbled forth, two or three times before he could make himself heard, 'This is not he, my lord. This fellow's taller by a hand's breadth, and he has got a number of knechts after him; so you had better look to yourself. I could not count them; for they wavered about before my eyes as if they were dancing.' 'That was because you are drunk, swine!' replied the Baron. 'Knechts!—what brings he knechts here for? Go you out, Fritz, and look at them through the grate, and see how many there are, and what they seek, if you can divine by any token, without speaking to them. Don't let yourself be seen before you come and tell me. Heaven send it may be a party of rich pilgrims come to seek shelter at Eppenfeld! We will treat them hospitably, and send them lightly on their way.' 'If they're pilgrims, they're pilgrims in steel coats,' answered Stephen; while the man whom his lord called Fritz hurried off to take a better survey.

"These tidings did not seem to please his lord; for the Baron's brow knit, and after looking two or three times towards the door of the hall, he was in the act of rising to go out, when his second messenger returned, saying, with a laugh, 'It's Ferdinand of Altenburg, whom you have seen with the Count of Ehrenstein; and with him he's got ten men of the castle.' 'Are you sure of the youth?' demanded the Baron; 'we must have no mistakes, though we can manage ten men well enough; ay, or forty, if they send them.' 'Oh, I am quite sure,' answered Fritz; 'for he has got his beaver up, and I can see his face as well as I can see yours.' 'What can the Count want?' murmured Eppenfeld to himself. 'Well, we are good friends enough, and he is not very particular as to what he does himself; so let them in, and bring the youth straight hither.—Take away these cups and tankards, and make the place look orderly. Then let every drunken man hie to his own sty; for if the good Count wants help with the strong hand, we may perchance have to mount before nightfall.' With a good deal of scrambling and confusion the board was cleared, and laid edgeways at the side of the hall, the tressels, the cups, the flagons, and all the other implements which they had employed in the revel, were hastily removed; and, after the horn at the gates had been sounded loudly once or twice, Fritz and two or three of the more sober of the soldiery went out to give admission to the followers of the Lord of Ehrenstein. In the mean while, the Baron walked up and down the hall, considering gravely the question of what the Count of Ehrenstein could want with him; for those were days when men were so much accustomed to plunder and wrong each other, that suspicion mingled with almost every transaction of life, and neither rogues nor honest men ever trusted each other without a doubt. Before his cogitations came to an end, Ferdinand—having left the horses, and several of his followers to take care of them, in the outer court—was ushered into the hall, with five stout men at his back, and advanced at once towards the Baron, through the different groups of somewhat wild and fierce-looking retainers, who formed the favourite household of the good Lord of Eppenfeld. 'Well, good youth, what do you want with me?' asked the Baron. 'If I am not much mistaken, you are young Ferdinand of Altenburg, who was page some years since to my fair cousin the Count of Ehrenstein.—Whom do you follow now?' 'The same, my lord,' replied Ferdinand; 'and the Count has sent me to you with his friendly greeting, bidding me say, that he learns from the

complaint of certain Venetian merchants, that some of your people, not knowing that they were journeying to the Castle of Ehrenstein, or that the treasure they carried was his, have stopped and plundered them on the highway from Zweibrücken. He bids me now tell you, however, that such is the case, and requires not only that the whole shall be instantly restored, but that compensation shall be made for the injury which your people have inflicted upon these merchants and their followers. Here the Baron of Eppenfeld interrupted him by a loud laugh. 'On my life,' he cried, 'thou art a bold youth to bring me such a message!' 'That message is not yet done, my lord,' answered Ferdinand coolly. 'The Count bade me add, that the compensation to the merchants is to be awarded by himself and Count Frederick of Leiningen, now sojourning with him at Ehrenstein, and commanded me to require an answer at your hands without delay, that he may take measures accordingly.'

"The Baron gazed at him, as if in surprise at his audacity; but yet at the mention of the name of Count Frederick of Leiningen as a guest in the Castle of Ehrenstein, a shade of doubt seemed to come over his face; and when the youth had done, he turned abruptly from him, and paced up and down the hall for a minute. Then, stopping again as suddenly, he replied, 'If I say bluntly, No, what have you to answer then?' 'My task then would be,' answered Ferdinand, 'to defy you in the name of my good lord and of Count Frederick, and to tell you that they will be before your gates in arms ere four-and-twenty hours are over.' The Baron bit his lip. 'Tell them that Eppenfeld is high,' he answered; 'tell them that its lord wears a sword that has made braver men than they are skip; tell them—yet stay, I will consider this, and consult with my people. You shall lodge here to-night and sup with me, and perhaps ere to-morrow I shall consider my old friendship with your lord rather than my anger at his rash message.' 'I fear that cannot be, my lord,' answered Ferdinand; 'I am neither to eat, to drink, to sleep, or spare the spur for more than half an hour, till I bear back your answer.' 'By my faith, then, no other shall you have,' cried the Baron, vehemently; 'and if you seek more, you shall have it in a dungeon of the castle.—Ay, tell,' &c. \* \* \* Ferdinand of Altenburg made no reply, but took a step back towards the door, very doubtful, to say the truth, whether he would be permitted to reach it. He was suffered to pass uninterrupted, however; but the moment he had quitted the hall, the man Fritz, who acted as the Baron's lieutenant, sprang to his lord's side, and murmured eagerly some words of advice. Those who were around did not hear all that he said, but some broken parts of sentences were audible, such as: 'Let us have four-and-twenty hours at least—never stand a strict leaguer so badly provided—bring the beavers from the wood, and call in all the men. We can do it in a minute—here are only ten with him.' The Baron nodded his head, and made a sign with his hand; and Fritz, beckoning to the rest of the men to follow, hurried out into the court-yard. Ferdinand of Altenburg had one foot in the stirrup, when the Baron's lieutenant approached him; and the rest of the men of Ehrenstein were scattered about—some mounting their horses, others mounted. The gate was open and the drawbridge down, and not more than fourteen or fifteen of the soldiers of Eppenfeld were in the court when Fritz entered it. Proceeding cautiously, therefore, he touched Ferdinand's arm lightly, saying: 'My good lord would fain speak with you for a moment farther, young sir.' 'I must not stay any longer,' answered Ferdinand, and was in the act of springing into the saddle, when Fritz, seeing a number of others following from the hall, threw himself suddenly upon him, and endeavoured to pinion his arms. Ferdinand was younger and more active, though perhaps not so strong; and with a blow of his gauntlet struck the man down, freeing

himself from his grasp. A scene of struggling confusion succeeded, in the course of which the young man and all his followers but two were overpowered by the superior numbers of their opponents, and carried back as captives into the castle. The other two were men who had already mounted, and who, at the first sign of this unequal strife, pushed their horses towards the gates, dashed over the drawbridge, and took their way at full speed down the valley.

"In the mean time, Ferdinand of Altenburg was dragged back into the castle; but instead of being taken to the hall, was hurried along the passages, and down a narrow flight of steps, to a small room or cell, which, perhaps, did not exactly deserve the name of a dungeon, for it was actually above the ground, but which was dim, damp, and inconvenient enough. In those days, however, the things which we are accustomed to look upon as absolute necessities were merely luxuries, and people of very high station fared hard and lay harder; so that a pallet bed, a narrow chamber, a little light, and a stone floor, were hardships not aggravated to the mind of Ferdinand by a contrast with any great delicacy of nurture. He did not remonstrate with those who bore him along; for he was well aware that by so doing he would only waste his breath: and, indeed, he said nothing; for threats he knew could only aggravate the rigours of his imprisonment; and he looked upon patience as a sovereign balm for all such misfortunes as those to which he was now subjected. Neither did he resist at all from the moment it became evident that resistance would be in vain; and thus, though he was dragged along at first with some degree of violence, the men who held him soon slackened their speed, and relaxed their grasp. When they had pushed him into the cell, they stood leaning against the lintels of the door, gazing at him for a moment before they shut it; and the man Fritz, whose right cheek and eye displayed very remarkable evidence of the strength with which Ferdinand had struck him, seemed now not a little surprised at the calmness and good humour with which the young gentleman bore his fate. 'Well, you take it vastly quietly, Master Ferdinand of Altenburg,' said the man; 'you seem as if you rather liked it than otherwise.' 'Oh, no,' answered Ferdinand, laughing; 'I don't like it; but as I expected it from the very first, I am not taken by surprise. There would be no benefit either, my good friend, in my struggling with you after struggling is useless, or in railing with you when railing would have no effect; and therefore all I have to say on the subject is, that there can be little good in keeping me here, since some of the men have got off; for I saw them with my own eyes. They will carry the news just as well as I could, and before this time to-morrow you will have the two Counts under Eppenfeld.' 'That's all very good,' answered Fritz; 'but I shall keep you here, notwithstanding.' 'I hope not on account of the blow I gave you,' said Ferdinand; 'no good soldier ever resents a fair blow received in strife.' 'No, no,' replied the other; 'if you knocked me down, I tripped you up, so that's all equal; but I have two good reasons for keeping you:—first, my good lord having more wine than wit in his head, I am thinking, sent messages to the two Counts which could do no good, and might do much harm; and secondly, you'll be a sort of hostage, young man. I know the Count loves you well, and would not like to see you dangling from the battlements, like pear from the end of a branch.' 'He would not much care, I fancy,' answered Ferdinand, indifferently. 'But in the mean time, I should like to have some supper, for if a man is to be hanged to-morrow, that is no reason why he should not eat and drink to-day.' 'Well, supper you shall have, and good wine to boot,' answered Fritz; 'you seem to bear a light heart, and ought not to want wherewithal to keep it up.—It is lucky that hanging is soon over, and can't happen twice; so good night, and God speed ye!' With this pecu-

liar topic of consolation, the man left him to comfort himself as best he might, and closing the door behind him, swung up a ponderous wooden bar, and pushed the bolts into the staples."

This extract can only give a faint idea of the spirit with which the men and manners of the age are traced upon the canvass; and yet there are minor matters of high merit, occurring throughout the entire narrative, of which we find it still more difficult to afford any adequate notion. There are, for instance, very many delightful reflections on events as they happen, and on the feelings and passions out of which they spring. For example:

"Man's nature is not more susceptible of pleasurable emotions than woman's, and, indeed, perhaps the finer delights, the more delicate enjoyments which she feels, are to him unknown; yet, as an equivalent, those very fine movements of the spirit, which are the source of so much delight, are often the cause of shadowy afflictions. Man can enjoy to the full, woman seldom, without some vague sensation of a different character,—it may be melancholy, it may be regret, it may be fearing mingling even with the cup of joy, perhaps to diminish, perhaps to heighten the flavour,—which I know not."

And how fine the following aphorism:

"Strange to say, I fear less now than I did a moment ago. *Expectation is fear.*"

Reflections on the lapse of time, to the question, "How long ago?"

"Oh, a long while," answered his companion; "long enough for young men to grow old, and for old men to wither and rot. Some twenty years ago or more. Lackaday, how few twenties there are in life! Twenty and twenty are forty, and twenty are sixty: how few see the fourth twenty! Who sees the fifth? The first begins in the infant, with a passion for milk; all mouth and no wit; and ends in the youth with a love for sweet ankles and for cherry lips; all heart and no brains. The second starts on his course like a swallow catching insects, and ends like a slough-hound upon the track of a deer: ambition flies before and distances him still. Then begins another twenty, with the hard brain and the hard heart; your man of manifold experiences, who finds no pleasure in pippins, and is mailed against the darts of a dark eye. He must have solid goods, forsooth, and so chooses gold, which will not decay; but, good faith! it matters little whether it be the possession which decays, or the possessor,—whether the gilded coin rots, or the fingers that clutch it: the two part company all the same. Then comes the fourth twenty, often begun and seldom ended; and we go creeping backward, as if we would fain run away from the other end of life; toys please us, straws offend us: we stumble at the same mole-hills that tripped up our infancy. Time rubs off from the score of memory what experience had written; and when the sorrowful soft gums have eaten their second pay, death takes us sleepy up and puts us quietly to bed. It was twenty years ago, good youth,—ay, that it was,—and twenty years is one of those strange jumps that are more wisely taken backwards than forwards."

We find we must reserve some further extracts and remarks for another *Gazette*.

#### NEW EDITION OF CHAUCER.

*The Canterbury Tales of Geoffrey Chaucer.* A New Text, with Illustrative Notes, by Thos. Wright, Esq., M.A., F.S.A., &c. Vol. I. 8vo, pp. 295. Published by the Percy Society.

POETS are not necessarily the best poetical critics, or Lord Byron would never have pronounced Chaucer "obscene and contemptible," or assert that "he owed his celebrity merely to his antiquity;" unfortunately forgetting in the latter remark that his reputation was established in his own lifetime, and his poems immortalised long before they had received the dust of "hoar antiquity." The only portion of his lordship's judgment likely to have weight, is the charge of obscenity; but this

also is most unfounded. Considering the times in which Chaucer wrote, and the looseness of the "manners of an age that knew of none," his poems are remarkably free from indelicacy; and if he is to be forbidden on that account, the plays of Shakespeare, which are far worse on the same score, should not enter our doors. The morality of our old writers must be judged in some measure by that of the era in which they flourished, not by the too scrupulous criterion of our own. Judging by comparison, Chaucer will stand out fair and pure; and if any of his stories are not suited to our present ideas of propriety, all we have got to do is, to follow his excellent advice; "Turn over the lefe, and chese another tale."

Very little attention is required to enable a reader, even one who is entirely unacquainted with old English, to understand Chaucer sufficiently to relish him; and after the first or second reading, we are convinced few would experience serious difficulty in entering into the spirit of his poetry. But pray do not read Chaucer in a modern dress, unless you can calmly bear to see his genius murdered. We are far from alleging that the modernisations of the Canterbury Tales do not possess considerable merit, but compared with Chaucer, English grapes to the clusters on the vines of Portugal. It has been said with great truth that no readable text of Chaucer has yet been accessible; for the generality of readers have been satisfied with Tyrwhitt's, so long the standard edition that its excellency has seldom been doubted. Many, then, will be surprised to hear that it is grammatically inaccurate in nearly every line; that Mr. Wright has satisfactorily proved that Tyrwhitt was perfectly ignorant of the construction of the language used by Chaucer; and so far from giving us an accurate text, has compiled one which no writer of the time could by any possibility have composed! Nothing could have so greatly facilitated the acquaintance of the public with Chaucer's original text as an improved edition on accurate philological principles; and the first volume of the elegant work now before us leaves nothing to be desired.

We hope this commencement of an edition of Chaucer, for the first time printed correctly, will not be suffered to pass unheeded by any poetical readers, or be appreciated only by the philological student. It is Mr. Wright's great merit to have introduced and set the example of editing the works of early English writers with grammatical correctness. Many can follow and imitate; few have the talent and zeal necessary for overthrowing old prejudices, and introducing systems different from those universally received. If any one now ventures to assert that we ought to be contented with Tyrwhitt's text, we have only to refer to the following unanswerable arguments:

"Tyrwhitt's entire ignorance of the grammar of the language of Chaucer is exhibited in almost every line, few of which could possibly have been written by the poet as he has printed them. It need only be stated, as an instance of this, that in the pretenses of what the modern Teutonic philologists term the strong verbs (which our common grammarians distinguish by the unfortunate title of *irregular verbs*), Tyrwhitt has invariably placed a verb in the plural with a noun in the singular. This is explained by the circumstance that, in our modern form of the language, the ancient plural of the pretense has been adopted for singular as well as plural. Examples of this occur almost in every sentence. In the verb *to sit*, of which the pret. s. and pl. was *sette*, Tyrwhitt has substituted *set*, a form which did not exist; and in the same manner, in the verb *to creep*, he has given pret. s. *crept*, when the forms were *a. creep*, *crope*, pl. *crope*. In the same manner Tyrwhitt has, in most instances, substituted the plural of adjectives for the singular, and the inflected cases of nouns for the nominative; besides an infinity of errors in the orthographical forms of the language."

It is clear that whatever may have been Tyr-

whitt's reading and industry, and however highly we may value them, no one can commend for adoption a text which abounds in such fatal errors. It has been said, no man can be a competent verbal critic but in his own language. When any language has become obsolete, or when, as in the present case, the editor is dealing with a dialect no longer current, he should first ascertain whether the grammar of that dialect has also become obsolete. To rush into collation of manuscripts without a consideration of this kind, and cook up a text with readings pleasing an arbitrary taste, is to become liable to an exposure from successors who possess more capabilities for the task. It may seem ungracious to speak thus of Tyrwhitt, his errors being rather those of the state of philological knowledge at the period at which his work was produced than his own; but so much has been said about the accuracy of his text, which has even been reprinted since the subject was better understood, that we are induced to speak more firmly than we should, perhaps, generally do, in a case where much may be pardoned; and record our conviction that Tyrwhitt's edition must never again be quoted as an authority by any one who is desirous of referring to a correct text of Chaucer.

We ought to add, that the present edition is issued by the Percy Society; and is therefore not to be procured by the public, except by accident. The Society has exercised a sound discretion in making this commencement of a series of standard editions of the works of the best early English poets; and we think no publication of the kind could have raised it higher in estimation than the one now under our notice. The foot-notes, which contain explanations of obscure allusions in the text, will greatly assist the reader in his perusal of the tales, and render a constant reference to a glossary quite unnecessary.

*The Stuart Papers: printed from the Originals in the possession of Her Majesty the Queen. Correspondence. Vol. I. Edited by J. Hulbert Glover, Librarian to Her Majesty. 8vo, pp. circ. 570. London, W. N. Wright.*

TEN days' exegesis upon this volume, the first of a series likely to possess very important historical bearings, have not enabled us to give it any thing like an adequate review. In its framework, with original matter, numerous notes and explanations, and a copious appendix, it is not only complicated, but perplexed; and, amid the confusion, it is difficult to follow even the main thread of the narrative. And when we also found that many of the most interesting points are disclosed in merely incidental passages, we feel that it would require a very patient and minute analysis to make them intelligible to the public. The volume, moreover, is only portion of a correspondence, and dependent on what is to follow for complete elucidation: "the present work (says the author) being rather a collection of facts for the elucidation of our history at this period, than the history itself. The reader will have ample opportunity of forming his own conclusions on this and many other points, as the several facts are developed in the forthcoming correspondence of James and his principal agents and adherents."

Such being the case, though we may afford several notices to the production before us, they need only be brief, as they must be desultory and inconclusive.

The annexed, from the preface, will probably strike others, as it did us, as a curious statement:

"A single glance at the list which accompanied Inesse's letter of November 23, will enable the reader easily to comprehend the nature of Atterbury's occupation, and the importance his correspondence is likely to prove, for the purpose of elucidating several important transactions. And, inasmuch as these documents are the true and frequently the only source whence a clear insight into many points of this particular branch and period of our history can be obtained,—so will the

future historian, and the nation generally, not fail to appreciate the essential service done to the cause of literature and of truth by her Majesty's gracious permission to publish such of these documents as are now in existence; which, besides correcting many popular errors relating to James and his family, will enable her subjects to discern how much they have gained by the establishment of the House of Hanover on the throne of these realms, and the sound policy that dictated and carried out the Act of Settlement."

Did the House of Brunswick need this? But let it rest. It is clearly proven in these pages that Atterbury was long in correspondence with the ex-patriated court, and was, in reality, a plotting Jacobite for years before he was himself obliged to flee. Pope, Swift, and Arbuthnot did their best to throw their mantles over him: but he was a conspirator.

The correspondence ranges from 1717 to 1725, and about 1722 is of much historical interest, shewing how near the island was to invasion in that year. The treachery of Mar is also plainly developed, and the insincerity of the Regent Orleane, and the treachery of others entrusted with the confidence of the unfortunate royal exile. Surrounding him there was a profusion of miserable jealousies, squabbles, intrigues, and traitorous betrayals: he could hardly know whom to trust, and must have been more and more sick of these than even of his hopes deferred. For instance, July 1724, we read of certain matters in proposition:

"The measures here alluded to were for the quiet removal of Lord Mar from all concern in James's affairs. As regards the strict orders of secrecy, it may be observed, that with the ostensible reason for giving them was combined another, the object of which was two-fold, and, though not declared, was intended to keep the knowledge of certain negotiations then pending between the French government and the Czar in favour of James, from Lord Mar; and to ascertain beyond any doubt how far Dillon himself might be depended upon in his observance of them. Of Dillon's fidelity, notwithstanding James's misgivings, there seems no reason to doubt; and, indeed, Atterbury's querulous observation a little further on is the strongest proof we can have of his rigid adherence to the Pretender's orders generally, and particularly to those which were conveyed to him in a letter dated from Rome, February 25, 1724; and which, though principally and designedly levelled at Mar, were, to make them as little obnoxious as possible, couched in such precise yet general terms that Dillon could not evade, or Mar take exception at them."

A singular piece of the correspondence is contained in the annexed:

"This letter, as appears from certain expressions in No. XXXII., is nothing more than a polite refusal of some proffered civility from Lord Mar. Bearing this in mind, and knowing the Bishop's feelings at this particular juncture towards his Lordship, the whole will appear caustic enough; and particularly that part of it which relates to Lord Lansdown, who is supposed to have hitherto abstained from seeing the Bishop, solely through Mar's interference. Mr. Murray alludes to this circumstance in a letter he wrote to James, as well as in one he sent to Mr. Hay; in the latter he observes, 'L. [Lord Lansdown] has not yet seen him [the Bishop], which is astonishing to the last degree. I fancy Martel [Lord Mar] dares not trust him in the other man's company, and that he has hitherto prevailed upon him not to go.'

"To the Earl of Mar.

"[Paris], June 10, 1724.

"My Lord,—I cannot think of stirring any whither till I have my cloaths from the Douanne, and have fixed the point of a house. Till then I must punish myself by staying at home, let the weather, the company, or the occasion be never so tempting. However, I return my humble thanks to your Lordship for the kind invitation, which I shall with so much the less uneasiness decline,

because I have the opportunity of conversing with your Lordship here at home in those papers you were pleased to put into my hands, which have given me a great entertainment. I am gotten through the better part of them; and when the interruptions of company give me leave, take as much pleasure in the views they afford me, as I should in any of the charming prospects about Paris, of which I have heard much, but shall, I believe, know little by experience, how long soever I may stay here. I had just sent to your Grace to enquire after Lord Erskine's health, and am glad to find, by your servant, that he is better. Would your Grace pardon my ill-breeding, I would beg you to give my Lord Lansdowne my respects, who, I suppose, had rather receive them that way than by any one that is known to be of my family. Though I never observed my Lord's temper to lean much towards the side of caution, yet since he thinks it necessary now, I must think so too, and conclude he has good reasons for it."

As we purpose to resume this examination, we take leave for the present, even with so short an introduction.

#### MADAGASCAR.

*Madagascar, Past and Present.* By a Resident.

Post 8vo, pp. 256. Bentley.

By his own account, a residency in Madagascar is no very enviable or desirable position; for the author paints the island and its sovereign queen in most horrible colours. The object of the work is to evoke the interference of England—we do not see clearly by what right or title—with the barbarous despotism of the usurping successor of Rama; and he says :

"No more fitting opportunity can ever await the mother country to insist upon an interference in the present scheme of government in Madagascar than now presents itself. Whilst we refuse to suffer France to aggrandise herself by the occupation of that island, let us meet her more than half way in endeavouring to remove Ranavalona and her chiefs from the authority which they have usurped, and in substituting such an one in her place as shall be a guarantee for the future interests and protection of the people; and which, above all, shall engage to receive an accredited British agent at the capital, together with a missionary body proportioned in extent to the capabilities of the island. Whether the British government will be ready to avail itself of the present opening to render this measure of good to the country, we have yet to learn; and whether, in the case of her willingness to do so, that of France will consent to sink those pretensions so speciously set forth by Laverdant for an object so praiseworthy, is a question of still greater moment to determine. But, be the issue of the present crisis what it may, no indirect interference in the affairs of Madagascar can be productive of any benefit beyond the moment, unless it be based on the primary removal of Ranavalona and her party from power."

And again : "If Great Britain should now feel determined to enter in earnest upon the task of rescuing the Malagasy people from their present deplorable condition, the first step of such a policy must be the removal of Ranavalona and her satellites from power, and the reorganisation of authority upon a new and more natural basis. That such an undertaking would be attended by no extraordinary difficulties, may, we think, be presumed from the fact, that many thousands of her subjects prefer to drag on a precarious existence in the forests (to which they have fled, with a view to escaping the terrible feudal service she has imposed upon them), rather than continue to live under her yoke, and who would hail the appearance of any foreign power which offered them protection and support. To this fact may be added another, that the extensive Sakalave tribes, which people the western coast of the island, are at open war with the Hova power; and, it is generally believed, would welcome an European armament, if only that it afforded

them the means of beridding themselves of the presence of such an enemy: a fact sufficiently proved by the good understanding they have always kept up with the French at Nos-Béch and St. Mary's Island. Let France only drop her tinsel pretensions to the possession of Madagascar, and co-operate, on principles of humanity alone, with Great Britain for the realisation of this great end, and the attainment of the object before us will not be difficult. On the other hand, should M. Guizot be overruled in the line of policy to which he has hitherto expressed himself determined to adhere in connexion with Madagascar, and have to witness France's appropriation of what, in the French Chambers, has been well defined as 'une Algérie à quatre mille lieues,' adieu, then, to the prospects of Madagascar, for the present century at least; although the exchange from native to a French government would at least give them the advantage of a greater security to life, whilst their present feudal servitude would probably undergo an amelioration by passing into the form of Gallic slavery.

"Should the Malagasy people be fortunate enough to excite in Europe an active and disinterested sympathy in their future condition, we earnestly hope that the feeling will not be allowed to cool before a demonstration be made by England or France, or by both, in their favour. We do not pretend to dictate to those powers the line of conduct to be pursued towards Ranavalona and her supporters; but we may venture to intrude an opinion, that the marching an army to the seat of government, although perhaps the most expeditious, would by no means constitute a necessary step for the accomplishment of the object they had in view. By occupying Tamatave and Foule-Pointe ourselves, or by replacing the present Hova authorities at those ports by such other native officers as would consent to govern the people (under European influence) with equity and kindness, we should strike a serious blow at the very spring of Ranavalona's resources; whilst these ports themselves might be held by a comparatively insignificant land-force, provided they were supported by a man-of-war, so situated as to command the shore. In addition to the above, it would be necessary to blockade the few remaining points on the coast at which supplies are occasionally received from without. By organising, in the next place, a native soldiery for the protection of the several points we might decide upon occupying, we should be enabled to withdraw our European land-forces, and leave them after a while to the protection of their own hearths, with the strongest incentives by which men can be actuated to defend themselves, viz. the preservation of liberty and life. By such a line of policy (cementing it yet more strongly by an offer of protection and employment to all who might resort to us with a view to escape the iron yoke of Ranavalona), the Hova power would quickly, we are convinced, decline; and if her sceptre were not speedily torn from her by such united agency, it would fall of itself at length from her enervated grasp, and await the occupation of such power as we might determine to invest with it."

To this scheme her Malay Majesty replies : "Madagascar and its productions are mine; and I am as much the Sovereign of that island as Victoria is of England. I do not interfere with what the Queen of England chooses to do in her country; and on the same principle I will not suffer any foreign interference with my policy or actions!"

Like Japan, she is resolute in excluding foreigners; and, to say the truth, we do not wonder at it.

But to leave the political bearings of the book,—which press most upon the necessity of Protestant proselytism by means of Missionary labours, upon the loss to the Mauritius from our being shut out from Madagascar trade and supplies of provisions, and upon the expediency of England proceeding

at least on equal steps with France\* in extending her influence in these seas,—we will run through the volume, in order to draw some examples from it (premising that the style is very indifferent) which may possess novelty and interest after the histories by Ellis and Copland, and other writers who have published their remarks on this quarter of the globe.

It appears that the island of Madagascar is occupied by two distinct races of inhabitants, the one Malay and the other African, of the Caffre and not of the Negro species. Some of its districts are so unhealthy that a few hours spent in them is almost certain death. Idolatry, Superstition, and Infanticide of the most atrocious nature, pervade the land; and the author says :

"The *sikidy*, or divination, is unceasingly in requisition, and is regarded as infallible amongst the miserable dupes upon whom it is practised; and the belief in its infallibility is the more incomprehensible, inasmuch as the several impotent contrivances which are resorted to, in order to the working of it, are so indifferently disguised, that it seems as though a child might detect the fact, that the materials are designedly disposed in order to bring about the result which the diviner himself desires. But our surprise at this seeming incongruity is lessened when we revert to the celebrated *sikidy* of one of the most wonderful people of antiquity, the Delphian Apollo, a specimen of imposture which supported its reputation so uninterruptedly through ages, and with such unquestioned success. The worthies in Madagascar who practise the thriving trade of divination and astrology, contribute, as we above remarked, in a fearful degree to the destruction of life. Some check had begun to be put upon this wholesale system of murder by Radama; nay, that prince had, we believe, successfully put a stop to it in the immediate vicinity of the seat of government; but it has since been re-introduced, and is now, perhaps, resorted to even more than at any former period; for her Majesty Ranavalona is, in her own person, wedded to the particular species of superstition we are speaking of, namely, that of soothsaying and divination.†

"The contrivances resorted to for the destruction of infants,‡ when once doomed by the astrologers to die, are not the least atrocious features distinguishing this dark page in the history of the people under our notice. Thus a common *modus operandi* for the attainment of this end is that of exposing the unconscious babe in a narrow passage, through which a herd of cattle is furiously driven, and by the feet of which it is scarcely possible to avoid being mangled and tortured by a gradual death; at other times it is suspended by the heels, whilst its face is held downwards in a pan of water until suffocation ensues!—or, still more horrible to relate, it is sometimes buried alive, with the head downwards, in a pit especially dug for the occasion. And this atrocious murder is in regular order commanded under the Queen's authority to be perpetrated by the *father* or *nearest relative* of the infant!"

\* Of the projects of this power, it is stated : "Already have they opened an active commerce along the Mozambique and Zanguebar coasts, and have located a resident, or envoy, in Abyssinia; and that their occupation of Nosibé and Mayotta are but preparatory measures to those possessing themselves of 'la grande île Africaine'—Madagascar, appears to have been openly asserted by more than one of the French ministry itself, and strongly advanced by the most recent French writer upon Madagascar." Their late occupation of Islands is also inveighed against.

† The divination seems to be in constant requisition by the Queen. She could scarcely venture to take even an ordinary meal of rice without having it worked ten or a dozen times."—*Note to Narrative of Persecutions in Madagascar*, p. 60.

‡ In Williams's 'Narrative of Missionary Enterprise,' it is stated, that on questioning three native women at the Tamatave and Society Islands as to the number of infants which they had respectively murdered, the first said, 'I have destroyed nine,' the second, 'I have destroyed seven,' and a third admitted that she had destroyed 'five.' Thus three individuals casually selected, had killed one-and-twenty children!"

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According to the same authority, it appears that, on succeeding to the throne, the Queen resolved to rid the island of all foreign presence, and especially of the missionaries, against whom she proceeded with intense vigour and cruelty in 1825, 6, till she drove the last out. Other acts of violence brought on the united French and English attack, which destroyed Tamatave and other places on the coast. On the negotiations preparatory to this rupture, we have an amusing anecdote :

" We cannot (says the writer) resist acquainting the reader with a ludicrous illustration of the advances which the Hova army have effected in the European science of ' soldiering.' Upon Captain Kelly's approaching the guard of honour, the officer in command vociferated, in broken English, ' Rear rank, taken open order ! ' We have remarked in the text that the guard consisted but of a single line ! Some other equally laughable words of command were issued in English, which the very organisation of the force rendered it incapable of obeying, had the same commands been even understood ! "

A fierce tirade against the Romish Church is added to illustrate this story ; for it is said : ' This system of manoeuvring might be likened to the tactics of the Romish Church, one admirable manoeuvre of which is, the inculcation of their blasphemous mummery through a language which is about as intelligible to four-fifths of its disciples as though their pastors were to address them in Cherokee.'

Let us pass, however, from such indecorous and irrelevant matter to two farther quotations of a more appropriate description. The first is a great fact, namely, that " already in Mauritius have many of the necessities of life been *trebled* in cost since Madagascar closed her ports against us."

The next is an historical passage belonging to the recent annals of Madagascar ; for the exact truth of which the writer, however, does not seem disposed to vouch. We give it as we find it :

" Here, we think, it will not be out of place with such a view of the subject, if we put the reader in possession of one of the most recent instances of the Queen of Madagascar's sanguinary exploits, that is to say, recent in comparison of any others which have made their way to our knowledge ; although it is not to be supposed that the cravings of such an appetite for blood could be long sated by the extent even of the present sacrifice. Occupying the entire western side of Madagascar, we meet with a race quite distinct in themselves, and between whom and the Hovas there has ever existed a reciprocal hatred. This people are well known to those acquainted with the modern history of Madagascar under the name of the Sakalava or Sakalave tribe ; or, as some early writers (Copland, for instance) denominate them, the *Seclave* tribe. They are pastoral tribes (to take our account from the source alluded to), living on the milk and flesh of their domestic herds, and on the chase of the blue or wild cattle, and wild hogs ; on arrowroot, arum, and many other roots and esculents of spontaneous growth. They are an athletic, bold, and hardy race, and numerous compared with any other tribe of common origin in Madagascar ; although few compared with the vast territory they occupy, extending full 900 miles in length, and on an average 100 in breadth. In the opinion of the best-informed French authorities, they are destined to become, sooner or later, the dominant power in the island. The eastern coast, in about three-fourths of its length, from the north point, where the widely spread Sakalaves are found lying westward, to within a few hundred miles of the southern extremity, is occupied by the Betsimisaraka (the inseparable multitude, or united people), the only tribe with which we are acquainted at Mauritius. They are an agricultural people, cultivating rice extensively for exportation as well as consumption ; notwithstanding which, they also during a part of the year subsist on bananas, yams, and such spontaneous roots and fruits as the herds of wild hogs,

monkeys, squirrels, and lemurs, think proper to leave for the human aborigines. They are an inoffensive and unwarlike people, great part of them having submitted to the Hova government without a blow about twenty-five years ago ; and to this they have proved useful, and indeed indispensable auxiliaries. A large tribe, which formerly occupied the north-east shores of Antongil Bay, refused to submit ; and have been exterminated by devastating wars, selling about 300,000 of them into slavery, and destroying an equal number by outlawry, rewards offered for their heads, and such other diabolical means as the Hovas could devise. At length the Hova government, wasted in its limited resources by the death of its soldiers, is unable to defend the eastern provinces against the more vigorous Sakalavas, who, nevertheless, prior to the Hova dominion, were always kept off by the Betsimisaraka themselves. For about five years past annual invasions have been carried on by the north-west Sakalavas against the north-east districts of the Betsimisaraka, destroying the Hova fortresses, and carrying off as booty the cattle of the Betsimisaraka for food, and their mothers, wives, and children, into slavery. Before last year they had destroyed every fortress of the Hovas, and devastated the whole country from Diego Suarez to Angontsy, excepting the impregnable peninsula of Diego. They have repeatedly declared their intention of not ceasing these invasions till Tamatave, the last port of the Hova Queen, is destroyed.

" Last year they invested Angontsy with a large army, when the Hova troops, throwing up the best defence they could, and pointing several cannons at the enemy, shut themselves up in the village and fortress with their cattle and property. The Sakalavas beat the Queen's troops, boldly approached the fortifications, and seized and spiked the cannon. Affairs now went very hard against the Hovas, and they expected to be all cut off.

But when they drove out the rich booty of cattle to the assailants, the Sakalavas were content with such an acquisition, and took their leave, promising to repeat their visit the following season. During this period, the native Betsimisaraka, not being allowed to keep fire-arms, with which the Sakalavas were well provided, had fled with their wives and children into the woods, to seek a refuge amongst the serpents and other denizens of the forest. The way being again clear, they now began to creep back into their villages. The Hova officers, mortified at their disgraceful defeat and dishonorable capitulation, and fearing the consequences of their Queen's anger, determined to cloak their disgrace by wreaking their cowardly fury upon the defenceless Betsimisaraka, the *éclat* of which should serve to eclipse the infamy of their defeat. They, therefore, collected as many of the returning villagers as they could at Angontsy, and formally accused them of cowardice and treason for not coming to the help of the Queen's troops. Accusations of this nature are soon ended in Madagascar. The wretched people were all seized and handcuffed, including the women and the circumcised boys, comprehending generally all above seven years of age."

" The preceding explanatory detail we have deemed necessary, in order both to make the particular circumstances (giving rise to this transaction) intelligible to the reader, as well as that he may be able to form an idea of the sort of motives which are sufficient at the present day in Madagascar to instigate those in authority to the wholesale destruction of life. We now come to the very gist of the matter, which the writer of the preceding narrative informs us he has published in the unadulterated language of the native who (through an almost miraculous incident) has been preserved to put on record what we are about to transcribe, and who cannot but be looked upon with a degree of additional interest from the *quorum pars magna fui* associations which attend him.

" ' I was amongst the number,' says the individual in question, ' who were seized and handcuffed.

We were all ordered to be slaughtered in a general massacre, beginning with the women and children. I was sitting on the ground by the side of my brother. The soldiers came and cut down and pierced the victims with swords and spears. I saw eighty-nine women slaughtered, and a great number of men ; I cannot tell how many. At length it came to our turn. I and my brother stood up, when he being killed with a sword fell dead on the ground, knocking me down in his fall. I lay a few seconds, when a Hova officer pulled me up by the arm to be killed ; but, looking at me, said, ' This is a good-looking youngster, I will take him for my slave, and pay his redemption-money.' Thus I alone was saved from death, and went home to the officer's premises.' (The poor fellow's lament reminds one of the language of Job's messengers on recounting the successive calamities of the patriarch, ' And I only am escaped alone to tell thee.') ' I took an early opportunity of running away, having the fear of death continually before me ; and reaching a near port, I contrived to get on board a ship and escape. After the horrible massacre was completed, the heads of the victims were all cut off and put into canoes, the men's heads being below and the women's and children's above. They completely filled seven large canoes ! They were sent coastwise, north and south, to be stuck on poles along the shore. The line of human heads extends as far as from Port Louis to Pamplemousses, about seven miles. They are now bleached by the sun and rain, and present to the ships which approach the coast of Angontsy the appearance of lumps of chalk or lime, glistening in the rays of the sun as far as the eye can reach ! '

With this tragedy we conclude. We regret to add, that the tone in which the work is penned is not of the kind to inspire us with perfect confidence ; but still we trust our extracts will shew that it is not without interesting points to attract readers, and perhaps merit the attention of the British Government.

#### PELLEW'S LIFE OF LORD SIDMOUTH.

[Second Volume.]

THE peace, or rather truce, of Amiens, and the debates on that treaty, occupy the earlier portions of this volume, but elicit nothing new or important enough for us to dwell upon. Lord Sidmouth's other measures are successively passed in review and eulogised. His improvements on the system of drawing lotteries, in 1802, is among the number ; but his biographer goes a step beyond the finance minister, who congratulated himself on raising 1,455,000*l.* within the year from this source, and observes : " To the credit of modern times, this fruitful but most objectionable source of revenue has long been entirely relinquished ; but let not the tribute of approbation be withheld from the minister who applied the first remedial measures to the evils resulting from the system."

In our opinion, then and now, there never was so great and idle a national sacrifice made upon such grounds. By the drawing in one day, gambling was completely put an end to. The tax was voluntary and pleasant : how much more pleasant would it be at this time than the window-duty ! Under good regulations, it could not be truly described as an incitement or encouragement to gaming. On the contrary, it might be a fair and just opening to a safe indulgence in one of the most universal of human passions ; affording sunny gleams of hope amid dismal circumstances, and not aggravating the gloom even when utterly disappointed : and there is more dangerous and injurious gambling in the conception of a single extensive railroad at this moment, for the gain of speculators and unworthy individuals, than there would be in three lotteries per annum, bringing two millions of ungrudged money into her Majesty's Exchequer. Yet such is the ascendancy of a morbid morality, that no ministers dare venture to propose a lottery : they would rather try to raise the income-tax to five per cent !!

As we proceed, we see more and more clearly that Lord Sidmouth was little else than the instrument of Mr. Pitt. He consults him upon every occasion, solicits his support, and is ruled by his advice. When he thought he had strength enough to throw off his leading strings and chair, he fell.

During the latter part of the session, Mr. Pitt, who had been seriously indisposed, was recruiting his health at Walmer, from whence he addressed several friendly and confidential letters to Mr. Addington. In one of these, dated June 7th, Mr. Pitt shews that he had been entrusted with the secret; if such it was, of the approaching dissolution:

"I rejoice that your business is so forward. If it is out of the House of Commons by the day you mention, I imagine we may expect the prorogation and its sequel about the 24th or 25th. I have had no opportunity of hearing any thing that I can depend upon respecting Dover. \* \* \* The air I am breathing and the life I am leading are every thing that is healthy, and I am gaining ground every day; but in doing so I discover how much more I had lost than I was aware of.—Ever affectionately yours,

W. P."

On the 26th Mr. Pitt again writes:

"I lose no time in returning the draft of the speech, which appears to me to be excellent, and to bear no marks either of the lamp or the nightcap. I have ventured, however, to attempt to heighten a little the principal tirade, by a few verbal alterations, but chiefly by inserting, as shortly as possible, two or three leading topics, which seem material enough to deserve particular notice. You will find the sentence, as it would stand according to the suggestion, in a separate paper."

But the misunderstanding and breach arrived; and the author seems to attribute it to the counsels of others, and particularly of Mr. Canning, who had wonderful influence, if this were true, over the mighty mind of William Pitt:

"The second remarkable feature (we are told) of this short session, the absence of Mr. Pitt, is now approached with unfeigned reluctance. It was ostensibly accounted for by the expediency of his remaining longer at Bath for the more perfect restoration of his health; in reality, however, it resulted from a determination to which he had recently arrived, of withholding in future his promised assistance from Mr. Addington's administration." \* \* \*

"The author's principal authority for making this statement is Mr. Pitt's own acknowledgment to Mr. Canning, as recorded by one who was with him at Bath at the time. 'He had pledged himself (he said), but himself singly, to advise and support the present ministry. This pledge he considered as solemnly binding, not redeemable by any lapse of time, nor ever to be cancelled without the express consent of Mr. Addington.' (*Lord Malmesbury's Diary*, vol. iv. p. 75.) Now although an extreme case might certainly have arisen, when it would have been Mr. Pitt's duty, for the sake of his country, to disregard any pledge, however binding, it is scarcely credible that such a necessity could have arisen between the date of Mr. Pitt's friendly letter of the 10th of November, and the meeting of parliament on the 23d of the same month."

Mr. Pitt's previous movements are interesting. He writes:

"Walmer Castle, Tuesday, October 19th.—Many thanks for both your letters. If I find my brother is not to be in town on Sunday, I will come on to the White Lodge to dinner at six; and if I dine with him, will come to you in the evening. I shall like, if possible, to get as far as Reading on Monday night. Your account of the consolidated fund gave me, as you will believe, great pleasure, and I made Steele very happy by communicating it to him." Mr. Pitt fulfilled this engagement on Sunday, October 24th, and proceeded on his journey upon the following day.

This fact Mr. Addington communicated to Mr. Abbot on the 30th, in the following words:—'Pitt dined and slept here on Sunday, in his way to Bath. He has no symptoms of illness, and very slight traces of it in his looks, and none whatever in his appetite and spirits.' A peculiar gloom overhangs this journey, since it was during his present visit to Bath that Mr. Pitt appears to have first adopted that view of public affairs which alienated him from the policy and party of his friend and successor, and placed him eventually in the ranks of opposition by the side of his great rival and constant opponent, Mr. Fox. Probably, however, neither party was aware at this moment even that the seeds of disunion between them were sown at all; still less, that they were so near the surface. Mr. Addington transmitted to Mr. Pitt, at Bath, the earliest intimation that the parliament would meet on the 16th of November, and the speech be delivered on the 23d; and as 'the accounts from Switzerland had now become critical, and those from France, in consequence of the transactions in that country, intolerable,' he pressed his brother to see Mr. Pitt when passing through Bath, on his way from his seat near Bristol to London, and to confer with him on the posture of affairs." Mr. Hiley Addington accordingly visited Mr. Pitt on the 6th or 7th of November, and a long, friendly, and confidential conversation ensued."

After this interview, Mr. Pitt offers an important view of our political condition:

"On the general state of things I can form very little judgment; but I rather fear, from the accounts from the Continent, that there is very little prospect of your meeting with any effectual support from thence at present, either in an attempt to save Switzerland, or for any other useful purpose. If this should be the case, I own that, on reflection, I doubt very much the prudence, though not at all the justice, of risking *at all hazards* the determination of withholding such of the restitutions as have not yet taken place; and, having conceived this doubt, I feel anxious just to state it to you, because I certainly was very strongly inclined to the contrary opinion, both when I conversed with you, and as late as when I saw your brother here in his way to town. I am by no means sure that we should not sufficiently consult our real security, preserving at the same time the advantages of peace, by contenting ourselves with a state of *very increased and constant preparation*, both naval and military; and by endeavouring, in the mean time, to lay the foundation of a defensive system in Europe, rather than by involving ourselves *immediately* in a separate war, only for the advantage of being to carry it on with these possessions still in our hands. I state this, however, only as a doubt; feeling that I have not the grounds before me to form any decisive judgment in my own mind, and much less any worth offering to others."

Well known events now took their altered course; and at the close of the year the author remarks:—"These, then, were the circumstances of the person who occupied the envied position of Prime Minister of England when the chimes announced the commencement of the eventful year 1803; his dearest friend forsaking him, a small but talented party privately combined to undermine him, and the French government pursuing a system of gradual encroachment and aggression which, unless speedily discontinued, must inevitably terminate in hostilities."

As difficulties accumulated, and growing dangers threatened, an endeavour was made to induce Mr. Pitt to accept office; but March 22, 1803, Lord Melville informs the Premier, from Walmer Castle:

"As matter of private gratification, Mr. Pitt has the reverse of any wish to return to official

situation; and if the present administration prove themselves competent to carry on the government with reasonable prospect of success, and are determined afterwards to adhere to those leading principles of foreign and domestic policy which he has so long considered essential, his wish is to be able to support them out of office are precisely the same as they were at their first formation. He does not, however, disguise from me that many things have occurred, both in relation to their transactions with foreign powers (so far as he has the means of judging of them) and with regard to the financial operations and statements of the treasury, as to have given him sincere concern; and if it were not under the circumstances of the present critical moment of the country, he doubts how far, considering the connexion he has had for these many years with its financial affairs, he was at liberty to refrain so long from stating to the public the fatal errors which he is satisfied exist in the statement made with regard to the amount of the national revenue compared with the charges upon it. As things now stand, he is induced, from all these considerations, for the present, at least, to adhere to the resolution of continuing his residence where he is, and refraining from taking part in the discussions of parliament. I did not conceal from him the idea you mentioned, of his returning to a share of the government with a person of rank and consideration at the head of it perfectly agreeable to him, and even specified the person you had named. But there was no room for any discussion on that part of the subject, for he stated at once, without reserve or affectation, his feelings with regard to any proposition founded on such a basis. The uncertain state of his health makes him still doubt how far, in any case, he could be justified in undertaking a lead in public affairs, under the difficulties now existing or impending. The moment of a negotiation still in suspense he considers in every view unfit for his taking part; but, in any event, nothing could induce him to come forward except an urgent sense of public duty, and a distinct knowledge that his services (such as they may be) are wished and thought essential both in the highest quarter, and by all those with whom (in consequence of any arrangement that might be formed on that ground) he might have to act confidentially. He is firmly of opinion that he could not, on this supposition, have any chance of answering his own ideas of being useful to the country in one of the great points on which he lays a principal stress, but by returning to the management of its finances."

To be the head or nothing! and the author states that he "finds no notice of the transactions between the 22d of March, when Lord Melville's letter was written, and the 10th of April, the date of the interview between Mr. Pitt and Mr. Addington, at Bromley Hill;"\* but it appears from Mr. Abbot's diary, that Lord Melville, on his return from Walmer, proposed that Mr. Pitt should be Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr. Addington be removed to the House of Lords, with an appointment as Speaker. To this, however, Mr. Addington objected, preferring a regular office to a provision of that nature; and consequently Mr. Long, who either was at Walmer at the time, as stated by Lord Malmesbury, or, according to Mr. Abbot, went down for the purpose, was employed to carry on a further communication with Mr. Pitt on the subject. On that occasion, as Mr. Long was getting into his chaise to return to town, Lord Grenville drove up to the door, on a visit to Mr. Pitt; and it will shortly be seen that Mr. Addington ever afterwards attributed Mr. Pitt's altered feelings towards himself to the influence exerted by his lordship at that period."

We have hereabouts very characteristic traits of three characters, the sinking minister and his two colleagues, named in the anecdote. "I then," Mr.

\* The delightful and intellectual residence of Mr. Charles Long, afterwards Lord Farnborough.

Addington relates, "went to the Cabinet, and told the circumstance to the Duke of Portland and Lord Eldon. The Duke warmly thanked me for my firmness: Lord Eldon asked me, whether I felt secure."

The Addington party had now the foolish hardihood to provoke a paper war with Mr. Pitt and his friends; for we are told, "a new element of discord must be alluded to. A war of pamphlets arose; for resorting to which fruitful source of irritation, the author feels bound to consider Mr. Addington's party chiefly responsible, since from that side the weapon which first provoked hostilities unquestionably proceeded. It was a paper of considerable ability, bearing the date of September 5, 1803, and was understood to have been written by a Mr. Bentley. Amongst other irritating matters, it presented a very unfavourable view of the state of affairs when Mr. Addington assumed the government, and commented with some severity on Mr. Pitt's conduct in withdrawing his assistance from the administration, after having engaged to yield it his 'constant, active, and zealous support,' which, it declared, 'was the precise form of words used.' It therefore naturally produced the effect of considerably exasperating Mr. Pitt himself, and of giving much umbrage to his friends;" — and so pamphlet after pamphlet were fired off, till the end. The forcible Feebles suffered severely; and we see enough to learn how the highest puppets in the greatest affairs of a great country may be in intellect and deserved influence no whit above the everyday puppets of ordinary life. Yet on such ministers hang the destinies of nations, the happiness or misery of millions of people, and the condition of a whole world. And in a government like ours the consequences are of prodigious magnitude; for it is a government of departments, and actual measures are but slightly affected by the collective wisdom of a Cabinet. On the contrary, till some enormous flaw occurs, the Secretaries of State for Home, Colonies, and Foreign affairs, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and First Lord of the Treasury in the management of the finances, and the Presidents of other Boards, all act independently, often without concert and seldom with contradiction (for that is a delicate matter), so that one wrong head among them is enough to do a tremendous deal of mischief before an explosion takes place. But truce to reflections. Mr. Addington held on till the 10th of May, 1804, when he resigned the seals; and the author refers to errors of statement which he alleges to occur in the recent publications by Lord Malmesbury and the *Life of Eldon* by Mr. Twiss. The King's personal regard for him, and his own disinterestedness at this crisis, are laudably set forward by his biographer.

[To be continued.]

*Village-Tales from the Black Forest.* By Berthold Auerbach. Translated from the German by Meta Taylor. Four Illustrations by John Abolson. Pp. 396. London, Bogue.

*Iwo.* The same. Pp. 179.

The last separate tale, *Iwo*, is the last also in the former volume, where it is preceded by several others of the same class, and all illustrative of the primitive manners still existing among the scanty population of the Black Forest. These manners, and the feelings which originate or attend them, the author has seized with felicity, and described with perfect natural simplicity; the whole tending to the inculcation of right mindedness and good conduct. Whether the lessons are likely to have any high moral effect upon readers belonging to countries farther advanced in civilisation, is problematical; and we can, therefore, only recommend these compositions for their apt and quiet delineation of a homely condition of society, such as that out of which nearly all the rest of Europe has emerged for a century or two. Some of their customs are curious, and the work altogether interesting as the picture of a state of things which must rapidly pass away, and leave little trace behind.

*Probabilities: an Aid to Faith.* Pp. 177. Hatchards. The writer goes over a number of points which have perplexed men in the holy Scriptures; and maintains that the probabilities of the most marvelous and supernatural are all in favour of our holding fast to the faith that is in us, even if we consult human reason alone.

*Trevor; or, the New St. Francis: a Tale of the Times.* Pp. 364. Longmans.

The hero of this religious novel is Francis Malinsey, curate of Norton, whose doctrinal exertions influence much of the destinies of its leading character. He, himself, ends unhappily; and the deduction of the whole story (which is ably told, though it discuss so many grave questions) is to eschew the moral tyranny of priesthood.

*The Philosophy of Wealth.* By John Crawford.

Pp. 102. (2d edit.) Longmans.

Ah, if one could but attain it! If an individual or a nation could be sure of it! Would they be happier? Just as they used the blessing. If, as is too generally the case, increase of appetite grew with what it fed on, and miserly avarice and hard-heartedness increased as acquisition increased the love of acquisition, it were far better to be poor and content. We agree with Sir E. Lytton that the worship of Mammon is the curse of our times, and that it is spreading its blight over the national character. But if to be rich be of mighty importance to a country, preserving its independence and deterring its enemies from hostile purpose, it will be well to study this small volume, which treats of all commercial and monetary transactions with skill and knowledge. The writer considers the acts of 1819, 1844, and 1845, to be merely portions of a system of blunders and inconsistency, most injurious to the industrious classes of the country. When we look around at the fearful unsettling of all money-relations between man and man, and the tendency to throw every thing into the hands of great and wealthy monopolists (to the destruction of middle classes), we are very much inclined to be of his opinion.

*Remarks on the Commercial Legislation of 1846.* By William Ward, Esq., formerly Representative of the City of London. Pp. 82. Pel. Richardson. The astute mind and great experience of Mr. Ward, so well known to the commercial world and so highly appreciated by his fellow-citizens, impart much importance to his opinions, especially at a crisis like the present. We need hardly, therefore, recommend this pamphlet to statesmen and commercial men. It is full of information; and the recent alterations made in regard to Free-trade, and the true principles on which its future ought to be based, are discussed with the talent of one who has deeply studied the subjects in all their bearings.

*Literary Characteristics of the Holy Scriptures.* By J. M. McCulloch, D.D., Greenock. Pp. 166. Edinburgh, Oliver and Boyd; London, Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.

THE reverend Scottish author's veneration for the Bible has led him to its careful critical examination, and we have here a second edition of the results, namely, the discovery of almost every kind of literary excellence, not only in what it contains, but in what it omits. He dwells on the obligations of our national poetry to that source, on the wisdom of its prophetic reserves, on the advantages of what he styles its oblique in contradistinction to the direct method of instruction, on its simplicity, and, in short, on its perfect applicability to human understandings and natures; and thence concludes for its absolute divinity in every part. It is a little volume to be largely recommended to general readers of religious works.

*A School Geography.* By J. Cornwell. Pp. 317. Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.; Hamilton, Adams, and Co.

*ETYMOLOGIES*, and the difference between political and physical geographical features, are well marked in this useful volume.

#### ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

##### NURSERY TALES.

To the Editor of the *Literary Gazette*.  
You are not only, Mr. Editor, a worthy censor morum, but also censor minimorum; and the stamp of your approbation will give currency to much of our juvenile literature. Your recent interesting observations on nursery poetry and its archaeology, open a wide field for the philosophy of the subject, where time and inclination permit. You are multifarious yourself, but we cannot all follow your lead. *Ex quavis ligno non fit, &c.* Dr. King, in his quizzical work, *Useful Transactions in Philosophy*, gives a supposed song of the Greek boys, being in fact a burlesque imitation of "Boys, come out to play," beginning

Καρποὶ Μύκηνας Μύκηνος κυριακοὶ πλαναὶ, &c. &c.

Person also amused himself by turning into Greek verse the well-known lines of

"Three children sliding on the ice," &c.  
and in some humorous notes to a recent little work called *Waifs and Strays*, there is a Greek version of "Sing a song of sixpence." It would be a curious, though no easy task, to describe the games of children still in vogue, tracing their antiquity, where possible; and a person doing this should look at the 215 games practised by Gargantua according to the list in Rabelais, as they comprise several juvenile games in use about 300 years since. Setting aside, however, traditional nursery lore, what a change has come over the face of juvenile literature, perhaps for the better; and far be it from me to oppose the Peter Parley and the range of books teaching the whole cycle of arts and sciences to our children in sport. But I am sure you were a reader of fairy and other tales in your childhood, and still find charms from the reminiscences afforded in Felix Summerly's *Home Treasury*, Chapman and Hall's *Illustrated Stories* (though these are modern), and Murray's elegant editions of *Puss in Boots*, and others. I have some half hundred of the green and gold ("gingerbread-covered") little books, the delight of children fifty and sixty years ago—family property; and though the gilding is well nigh worn, and the covers sadly want re-covery, yet, what memories are associated with them! Hail, Jones Griffith, the introducer, it is said, of this class of literature, and a voluminous writer for Mr. Newbery; a visit to whose shop at the corner of St. Paul's Churchyard, to choose one of his cherished publications, "price sixpence bound and gilt," was one of the Christmas treats. Has Mr. Harris any of these treasures stored away in some forgotten recess, or have they long since been consigned to Mrs. Gamp's friend of that name? How rude and quaint the illustrations! but serviceable even now in respect of the costume. A spirited publisher might now even treat us with a re-issue of them, under such names as, "The Tell-Tale Library," "Fairy and other Tales, for Fair and other Children," "Buds of Literature for Nursery Sprouts," &c. Issue monthly numbers, according to fashion, for the weakly readers. They contain in small the germs of larger works, as the acorn is said to contain the model of the oak. Look at *The History of Goody Two Shoes, otherwise called Mrs. Margery Two Shoes; with her means of acquiring Learning, Wisdom, and Riches*. How this might be wire-drawn; describing her struggles and adventures, from the time her father, a respectable farmer, was ruined by gaining several law-suits against the wealthy lord of the manor, until she married a man of title; with the episode of her little brother Tommy, going out as a sailor-boy (dressed, according to the picture, in a long coat and breeches, with a cocked hat in his hand and a stick under his arm); and coming back richly dressed, just in time to join the marriage ceremony. Then, *The Entertaining History of Goody Goosecap*, who is, however, anything but a goose; which also finishes off in a "sky-rocket of love and happiness," as Miss Sinclair calls it, after more adventures even than Mrs. Margery Two Shoes. For gentlemen of the

same well-conducted and prosperous lives, we have *Solomon Serious and his Dog Pompey*, and *Honest Peter*. While, for a contrast that might be worked up in the French School, or Newgate Calendar style, is the history of *Little Dick*, who, after a series of *improprieties*, meets with poetical justice, by being drowned in a vessel of which he had ordered the captain to be murdered, in order to assume his place. His adventures, properly enlarged, would give ample scope for the writers of the terrible-horrible school, who gloat on descriptions of crime and distress. As an example of morality, we have, *The Life and Adventures of a Fly*, supposed to have been written by himself, whose progress through life, after his narrow escape from destruction in a honey-pot in his younger days (when, like many others, he could not withdraw himself from the snares of lawless pleasure), contains encouraging examples of virtue and learning triumphant, and idleness in distress, with most accurate poetical justice. Then, ye shades of Mother Bunch and Mother Goose! with your collections of tales, how delightful it was to pore over your improbabilities and impossibilities, till one expected some good-natured fairy would suddenly appear, with a basket of choice fruit, and ask for a holiday. The little book with "The Cries of London," is curious even in an archaeological point of view; containing some trades, or *callings*, now obsolete, and dressed in the costume of the day. See the old woman, with her pan on her head, crying out, "Diddle, diddle, diddle Dumplings, O! hot, hot." Another figure, whom some may yet remember, with "A long-tail'd Pig, or a short-tail'd Pig, or a Pig without ever a tail; a Sow Pig, or a Boar Pig, or a Pig with a curly tail." Then the once-celebrated Buckhorse (whose name was distinguished at Westminster by being applied to an effect box on the ear), with his "Come, buy my little Tartars, my pretty little Jemmies, no more than a halfpenny a-piece." The celebrated baker and vender of "Hot spice gingerbread, all hot" also appears, with his cocked hat and laced coat. A great favourite was, *The Fairing, or Golden Toy*, containing an account of a visit to the fair, where some cunning boy finds out and explains many of the conjuring tricks, which do not, however, rival those of Herr Dobler or Mons. Philippe. Several of the usual mysteries of a fair are introduced, with learned dogs and monkeys; also, the humours of the Doctor and his Merry Andrew. The stories of *Whittington and his Cat*, and *Puss in Boots*, are also brought in; and there is a regular old Droll or Interlude, given at length, called, *The Geography of the Mind; or, a New Way to know the World*, between neighbour Tumbleturf and neighbour Chopstick, with Tom the servant, shewing "that money makes the mare to go;" and founded on the old story of one farmer wanting to borrow the mare of another, and though refused at first, yet getting it willingly on shewing that it affects the lender's interest. There is also the quaint old little song of

"There was a little man,  
Who woed a little maid," &c.

I fear, if you notice me at all, you must shorten me in your Procrustian bed; and must therefore end abruptly as your faithful reader,

JAN. T.

To the Editor of the *Literary Gazette*.

Cossey, Feb. 9th, 1847.

SIR.—In reference to Mr. Fox Talbot's derivation of the word *mustard*, allow me to mention that a venerable old gentleman, now no more, who had lived many years on the Continent, and was very familiar with the language and customs of France, used often to allude familiarly to the etymology of the word when using the article at table. He stated, as a matter nowise doubtful, that the French word *moutarde*, whence our *mustard*, arose from the motto of the French town most celebrated for the manufacture of the article, being always inscribed upon the earthen jars in which it was sold. This motto was *moult me tarde*, an old French corruption of *multum me tardat*. This was most naturally abbre-

viated to *moutarde*. The town was perhaps Dijon; but that I do not remember.—I am, &c.

F. C. HUSENBETH.

#### ARTS AND SCIENCES.

##### ROYAL SOCIETY.

February 11th.—At a Special General Meeting, held in accordance with a requisition (see *Lit. Gaz.* No. 1565), the Marquis of Northampton, president, in the chair, the following motion was made by Mr. Thomas Wharton Jones, and seconded by Dr. Copland: "That it is the opinion of this Special General Meeting of the Royal Society of London for improving natural Knowledge, that the award of the Royal Medal in Physiology for 1845 was made under circumstances characterised by great irregularity, and in violation of her Majesty Queen Victoria's regulations, viz. that the Royal Medals be given for such papers only as have been presented to the Royal Society, and inserted in their *Transactions*; and that therefore the said award ought to be considered as null and void." Upon which, the following amendment was moved by Mr. J. E. Grey, and seconded by the Rev. R. Sheepshanks: "That whereas the President of the Society has already expressed from the chair an opinion on the irregularity which attended the award of the royal medal in 1845; and whereas the Council issued new regulations with regard to the Royal Medals as soon as they discovered that those enacted in 1838 were inconsistent with the terms of the royal grant; it therefore does not seem expedient to the present meeting that any further proceedings should be taken in the matter." Which amendment being put from the chair, was carried; three hands only being held up against it.

Upon the motion of Sir R. H. Inglis, Bart., seconded by Sir R. I. Murchison, the thanks of the Society were voted to the president, and the meeting was dissolved.

Of the proceedings, and of the irregularities admitted, we may have to speak hereafter. At present, we give the rumour that the matter will not rest where the "amendment" has left it, but that the opinion of the Visitors will be required.

##### THE NEW STATUTES.

At the ordinary meeting in the evening, after the conclusion of a paper on the radiation of bodies near the surface of the earth, the Marquis of Northampton read from the chair the new Statutes passed by the Council the previous day. They referred exclusively to the law of election; and are calculated, we think, to work great good to the Society. They do not, as we had heard, and anticipated they would (see *Lit. Gaz.* No. 1558), absolutely limit the Fellows to be elected in any one year to fifteen; but this will in all probability be the result whenever the Council possesses the confidence of the Society; and that such confidence should exist rests with the Fellows themselves. The powers conferred upon them by the statutes at large are considerable. Let them be read by all, and exercised with discretion; let no Fellow be indifferent to the welfare of the Society, and the Society will, in the course of time, become what the Royal Society of Great Britain should be.

But to return to the statutes; the Council in framing the new chapter have, it appears to us, maturely considered the requirements of the charter, and honestly respected the rights of the Fellows. Election at the ordinary meetings is abolished, except in the case of Princes Royal, Peers of the realm, and foreigners of distinction. These personages may be proposed by any one Fellow, seconded by another, and elected the same evening, provided due notice had been given at the previous meeting. In all other proposals for election the usual certificate is to be delivered to one of the Secretaries, and at the first meeting in March of each year the certificates will be read and suspended. After the first meeting in April the names of all the candidates, their proposers, seconders, and supporters, alphabetically arranged, will be printed and circulated. In the month of

April the Council will select fifteen names as the candidates whom they consider most eligible for election. At the first meeting in May the Council's list will be distributed, and a copy forwarded to every Fellow. At the first meeting in June the election will take place, two scrutators being appointed to assist the secretaries, to collect and arrange the lists of each Fellow. It will be the right of every Fellow either to approve or reject the list of the Council, to substitute a name or names of the other candidates for one or any of those recommended; also, if he pleases, to add any number to the fifteen, or even to vote for the whole of the candidates, by giving in his list without erasing a name. For by this mode, and not by ballot, are the elections of June 1848, and future June elections, to be determined. We trust that this annual and open voting will engender a new spirit, and that the object of every voter will be, not the election of this friend or that friend's friend, but of him who is an honour to the Society, or whom the Society may wish to honour, whether as a worker in or a promoter of science.

Jan. 28th.—Mr. L. Horner, V.P. in the chair. The following paper was read: "On the lunar atmospheric tide at St. Helena," by Lieut.-Colonel E. Sabine. The results of the observations made by Captain Lefroy, of the Royal Artillery, director of the Magnetic and Meteorological Observatory at St. Helena, are here given: from which it appears, on the examination of the barometrical changes during seventeen months, that a maximum of pressure corresponds to the moon's passage over both the inferior and superior meridians, being slightly greater in the latter case, and that a minimum corresponds nearly to the rising and setting, or to six hours before and after the former periods. The average atmospheric pressures are 28-2714 inches in the first case, and 28-2675 in the last; the difference being 0-0039 inches. The height of the cistern of the barometer above the sea is 1764 feet, and the latitude of the Observatory 15° 57' s. These results were still further confirmed by those of a series of observations during two years. These observations also establish the conclusion, that the moon exerts a greater influence on the amount of atmospheric pressure at the periods of her perigee than at those of her apogee.

##### ROYAL INSTITUTION.

Feb. 5th.—Sir E. Codrington in the chair. Mr. Grove "Some considerations on the nature of heat." The former portion of this communication was an extension of the views advanced in Mr. Grove's essay on the *Correlation of Physical Forces*, or rather in that portion of it which treats of heat. After a sketch of the existing theories of heat,—the emissive, the ethereal, and the dynamic,—Mr. Grove announced himself an advocate of the last, viz. that which regards heat as molecular motion of ordinary matter. The phenomena of what is called "latent heat" have always been considered a stumbling-block in the way of this theory, and a strong argument for the materiality of heat. Mr. Grove considered that all the phenomena of latent heat might be accounted for more simply by the dynamic theory, and that the greatest difficulty in applying this theory was the necessity of excluding ideas associated by long usage with the phenomena, and also of employing terms which had become engrafted by custom on the expansive effects of heat. Thus, in expounding a new view, although more simple in itself than the received ones, we are obliged to avail ourselves of received terms, to which, while we use them, we object.

Excepting the case of certain substances which expand in freezing, and which expansion is accounted for by their crystallisation, making the body occupy more space, by leaving interstices between the crystals, Mr. Grove stated that all the phenomena in which the so-called latent heat is concerned were mere expansions and contractions; and that what, according to that theory,

would be called absorption of heat, was mere extension of the substance said to absorb the heat. Thus, suppose a given quantity of water to be heated by a given quantity of mercury; the first effect is, that the water expands, the mercury contracts; at a certain point, viz. that at which the water is said to have reached its boiling-point, the attraction of the molecules of water is so conquered by the repulsive force, heat, that the water bursts into vapour; here its molecules being more separated, and having consequently a less attractive force, are so much more readily expanded, and exhaust much more expansive force from the heated mercury: this, therefore, loses expansive force, i.e. contracts or shrinks; and the more so in proportion to the readiness of expansibility of the substance which robes it of its expansive force. So, if the calorific force be supplied by other means, such as ordinary combustion, say of coal and oxygen, i.e. chemical action, the expenditure of fuel will be in proportion to the expansibility of the substances heated; so that the same quantity of water will require the same quantity of heat to convert it into steam, whatever the pressure.

If, again, the same source of heat be applied to the two substances, water and mercury, say to a thermometer immersed in water, both gradually expand, but in different degrees; at a certain point the attractive force of the molecules of the water is so far overcome that the water becomes vapour; at this point the heat or force, meeting with much less resistance from the attraction of the particles of steam than from those of mercury, expends itself upon the former; the mercury does not expand, or expands in an infinitesimally small degree, and the steam expands greatly; as soon as this arrives at a point where circumambient pressure causes its resistance to further expansion to be equal to the resistance to expansion in the mercury of the thermometer, the latter again rises; and so both go on expanding in an inverse ratio to their molecular attractive force.

Again, if the steam be not allowed to expand, as by confining it by a less expansible body, say a metallic chamber, then the mercury of the thermometer immediately rises.

Thus heat is regarded as a purely mechanical effect; and indeed, it can be made to reciprocate with mechanical action. If by mechanical pressure we cause a substance to contract, this gives out heat, i.e. causes surrounding bodies to expand; and, vice versa, if we mechanically rarefy or expand a substance, cold is produced, i.e. contraction in surrounding bodies.

The theory was also applied to the increase of specific heat in bodies as their temperature increases, and to many other points; and the whole subject was experimentally illustrated.

Mr. Grove next passed to the consideration of the effects of heat, viewed as repulsive force, upon another mode of molecular attraction, viz. chemical affinity. A vast number of compound bodies are decomposed or resolved into their constituent elements by heat; and these effects may be accounted for by supposing that heat so far separates their molecules as to remove them from the spheres of their affinity. In other substances, however, chemical combination is produced by the application of heat; and though by certain hypotheses these latter effects may also be accounted for by the repulsive action of heat, Mr. Grove seemed to consider these hypotheses rather strained. Water has, up to a recent period, been considered not only as undecomposable by heat without the aid of some other powerful chemical affinity, but the elements of water are united by the action of heat; and in pneumatic analyses heat has hitherto been employed to combine the elements of water with each other, or with other gases. Mr. Grove, however, has proved, and experimentally shewed on this occasion, that water is capable of being decomposed by heat; thus forming no exception to the general antagonism of heat and attractive force.

The particulars of these experiments we need

not detail, as we have already given them in a former number (*Lit. Gaz.*, No. 1547).

#### LITERARY AND LEARNED.

##### UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

OXFORD, Feb. 4th.—The following degrees were conferred.

*Doctor in Civil Law.*—Rev. C. J. Champneys, St. Alban Hall.

*Masters of Arts.*—Rev. J. Godley, Exeter College; Rev.

W. D. Astley, Pembroke College.

*Bachelors of Arts.*—T. Whitehead, scholar, H. W. Thrupp,

W. F. Hood, Exeter College; T. Harvey, Balliol College;

G. P. Bevan, Oriel Coll.; C. J. Soanes, St. John's College.

In a convocation held in the afternoon of the same day, Mr. Garbett was unanimously re-elected Professor of Poetry, an office which he now holds for a second term of five years.

##### SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

Feb. 11th.—Sir R. Inglis, V. P. in the chair. The chairman read a note from the President respecting a deviation he had considered it advisable to make from the general rule in the appointment of auditors of the accounts. Hitherto it had been the practice, in conformity with the provisions of the charter, for the president to appoint two auditors annually. On the present occasion he had considered it imperative to join in the present auditanship those of the past year, in order that the new auditors might have the benefit of the experience of the former; so that the state of the Society's finances may be fully investigated for the consideration of the annual meeting.

Mr. Akerman exhibited a silver ring, presented to him by the Dowager Marchioness of Conyngham, and which, from comparison with one engraved in Douglas's *Nenia Britannica*, he was inclined to think was Anglo-Saxon, and that it may have been found in one of the barrows in Bourne Park. It was a plain ring, surmounted by a cluster of five pearls of silver.

Mr. C. Baily exhibited a beautifully worked portion of a priest's chasuble, of the latter part of the fifteenth century, purchased by him at Cologne. It was in the form of a cross, on the upper limb of which was a figure of the Deity wearing the Papal tiara. Mr. Bowyer communicated a paper on the customs and laws relating to the swans in the river Coln; and he exhibited in illustration drawings of a quantity of the old swan-marks.

Sir H. Ellis contributed a paper on an ancient city on the coast of Pomerania, which for many centuries has been entirely covered by the sea.

##### BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

Feb. 10th. *Meeting of Council.*—Several associates were elected. A further communication was made by Mr. Haggard relating to the seal of Prior Be

renger, mentioned on a former occasion. A further communication was also received from Mr. J. A.

Yatman relating to the interesting old church of Llandanwg in Merionethshire, which has been allowed to fall into an unmerited state of neglect and dilapidation, and for the repair of which it is proposed to raise a small subscription. Several letters were read from Mr. Macneil, of Trowbridge, Wilts, relating to discoveries, of no great importance in themselves, made in the course of repairing Trowbridge Church. A letter from Mr. Dunkin informed the Council, that during the winter a labouring man had pulled down, without consulting the owner, the ruins adjoining Fawkham Church, near Dartford, Kent, and that he had sold the materials at nine-pence a load to mend the Dover road. Some silver coins of the Edwards had, he understood, been found, and carried to the dealers in London. A few other communications were read, chiefly on the business of the Association.

##### ROYAL SOCIETY OF LITERATURE.

Jan. 28th.—Mr. Birch completed the reading of his translation, with remarks, of the valuable historical document, the tablet of Karnak.

The interval which separates the line succeeding the mention of Nineveh, probably contained a notice of the chiefs and prisoners of war, and

offered persons—slaves or hostages—who had been delivered in to the king; for the twenty-second line commences with recording 513 *pure* men and women, 260 brood mares, 45 ingots of gold, 9 portions of some material, and silver vases of the fabric of the Tahai. From the expression of Rameses II., that he had filled the temple of Amen at Thebes with pure persons taken in war, it is probable that these were of the sacred class employed in menial offices in the temples. Horses formed an important tribute to Egypt; and it has been remarked that this animal is not seen upon the sculptures till the xviii. dynasty. The post of master of the brood mares (*sesem*) of the royal stud was filled by princes of the blood royal; and the word for them is of semitic origin. The horse was extensively used throughout central Asia for purposes of war, but only in chariots, and the exceptional instances prove that it was not esteemed for cavalry. The Scythians and Persians at a later period were the great horsemen, and owed much of their success to the dexterous employment of cavalry. The gold from this part of the world was not brought in the huge ingot chains, as from Kesh or *Æthiopia*, but fused into long rectangular ingots, probably adjusted to a weight. Rings were, however, occasionally exported from the north, and may be the early shekel. With respect to the Tahai, who are mentioned previously, Rameses II. in his ninth year, when he had undertaken his second campaign, was in the land of the Tahai when he heard that the Kheta had settled in the land of the Khirubu or Chalybes, the Helbon or modern Aleppo; from which it is probable that the Tahai are the Taochi, situated in the mountain ranges of Armenia. In the twenty-third line are mentioned 48 zebu calves, 564 bulls, 5323 goats, 828 measures of frankincense, and a quantity, unfortunately obliterated, of conserves of dates. The next line mentions the chiefs of Rumen, a people who are represented in the first year of Sethos I. felling wood for the king, probably for the construction of a fleet, as conjectured by Mr. Osburn. They have been supposed by Sir Gardner Wilkinson to be the people of the Libanus, and more correctly by Mr. Osburn to be Hermonites. In the twenty-fifth line, is probably a fragment of the account of the eighth expedition, which must have taken place in the 32-33 regnal year, having enlarged the frontier of Egypt. There is possibly just here a mention of the Khirubu or Chalybes; but it is not certain. The next line commences, 111 captured calves, 419 bulls, boats laden with ivory, ebony, and wool, and all other good things of a land the name of which is wanting. The twenty-ninth line commences with 60 bulls, 104 taken, and boats coming laden with all the good things of a land the name of which is also unfortunately wanting in the text. In his thirty-fourth year the events were probably in connexion with the Tahai. The thirtieth line, in its present mutilated state, only mentions one fort which surrendered, and three which were taken in the waters (?), of the U-ka-sa, or Oxus, and prisoners led from some other place. The thirty-first line commences with the end of a sentence which has been composed of the chiefs, wives, brethren, and children, of some land; followed by an hiatus in which the Chev. Lepsius has restored 40 brood mares, 15 chariots plated with gold and silver, gold vases, gold rings or shekels, gold vases of that land, with covers or rings, 53 ingots and bricks of lead (the land is probably the Ruten-nu, Ludim, Lydians, or Arvadites; for in subsequent lines mention is made of two kinds of wood, kam or black wood, and sesem or sesam wood, objects decorated with precious stones, and all the valuable woods of some country the name of which has been destroyed); followed by a statement that the tribute of the Ruten-nu in that year was brood mares. The chiefs of Saenkar, the Mesopotamian Sigara, or Shinar, as identified by Rosellini, brought 24 ingots of a material called chesebt, and as many of Beberu or Babel. This material, chesebt, has been conjectured by Champollion to be porcelain, pro-

bably from his finding it to designate some material of a porcelain colour; but some reasons were given for believing it to be a metallic substance. In this inscription it is generally placed after gold and silver, before other metals; and in the treasury of Rameses III., or Meriamen, at Medinet Haboo, in the third hall to the left the king offers it to Amen: it is called chebet entefrur; and is mentioned with 1000 sacks of gold, gold of *Æthiopia*, 1000 sacks of the gold of the waters, 1000 ingots of Nubian gold, gold from the land of Teb, electrum (*Kasha*) of the divine land, and of Phent. The only metal the name of which is not identified is tin, but the Coptic word (*basneaj*) is quite different, but if even conjectured to be this metal, it is possible that the Babylonians might have obtained it from the Straits of Banca. In the subsequent lines are mentioned vases, probably from Nekarain, 8 rings or shekels of silver, 301 made ingots, white stones, and gems; and so through the subsequent lines, 16 slabs of some stone, together with vases, and all other good things of that land—set up a tablet in Nekarain, on account of having enlarged the frontiers of Egypt. The Khirubu or Chalybes are probably here mentioned. In the same year sledges of stone were brought for the king to Egypt, from the land of Phent. 1686 measures of pearls, and gold, were received in the same year, and these probably came from Arabia or *Æthiopia*. The text continues to mention, in a most fragmentary manner, carvings of that land, and gold and silver, according to the restoration of Lepsius, brown stone (?), 80 bricks of iron, 11 of lead, 10 lumps of coler, and all precious stones, pearls, green feld-spar, and a green material. After a considerable interval, is the tribute of some other people, 2080 measures (*mmas*) of conserves, or wine of dates, perhaps the palm wine, 508 measures of wine, Tamikau wood, and sesem wood, kenkut (*sycamore or fig tree?*) wood, and all the good wood of that land. Passing some fragments of minor importance, is—"the tribute of the chief of the Asi in that year was 108 bricks of iron, 2080 ingots of pitch (*sefet*), 57 bricks of lead, 1200 bricks of lead of water, 10 ingots of enamel or tin, with ivory and ebony." From the mention of bitumen, and the position of the Asi in the conquests of Sethos I., with Shishan and Meopotamia, these people are probably the Hies of Herodotus. Subsequently, 64 oxen, 170 calves, boats laden with ivory and ebony, and other valuables of that land, of the Kesh or *Æthiopia*, are mentioned, which appears to have been rated at the tribute offered by the Vavath. The thirty-seventh line just alludes to the tribute of the Vavath; but in his thirty-fifth regnal year, and tenth expedition, the king had approached the fort of Aruania, where the enemies of Egypt had drawn up their array. His majesty was then in the land of Tahai. The next line is obscure, but perhaps alludes to an allied march of the king and the Tahennu, executed with great caution; and the succeeding lines continue to allude to the attacks rather than the tributes of the king. It is a subsequent line is mentioned several objects, apparently the result of a sacking; viz. 2 fighting leopards (?), (*chener kar*), ingots of lead, and other things taken and brought by the troops to his majesty; — killed chiefs, 10 living chiefs, 180 horses, and 60 chariots. It will be recollected that the people of Phent bring to the very king Thothmes leopards very like the *jeits jubata* of India, or chittah. In the subsequent line is 246 portions of some material, 1 chariot plated with gold, and 20 with silver, which might have come either from the Attenu or Nekarain. As the tablet proceeds, a larger portion is unfortunately destroyed; some of the intermediate portions may perhaps be restored. As the king approached that land, the people came with boats laden with ebony and ivory, and all the good and true things of that country, in the same manner as the measure of Kesh; the chief of some other land brought under 100 mmas of measures of frankincense, 999 measures of conserve of dates, or palm-wine. With considerable intervals are subsequently mentioned

ivory, and sesem-wood, and corn, and incense, according to the rating of the Tahai, 1685 measures of pearls polished in *Æthiopia*, and 100 ingots of gold. These pearls probably came from the Red Sea; but the reputation of the blacks for engraving stones, although mentioned in the *Erysias* of *Æschenes* must have only referred to the actual obtaining them from the mines or sea. In connexion with the valuables of Kesh may be cited the letter of Queen Candace, as given in the spurious life of Alexander the Great by Julius Valerius, which, although of a late period, and probably copied from one of the letters of the later emperors, wonderfully coincides with the tablet. The queen sends Alexander 100 largest sized tiles of gold, 5 *Æthiopian* boys, 6 parrots, peacocks, a crown, and 10 purses full of all kinds of pearls and gems, 81 other ivory coffers, 350 elephants, 6 pards, 81 rhinoceroses, 4 panthers, 90 dogs which hunt men, 80 bulls, and 1500 logs of ebony. In the text of the statistical tablets are subsequently mentioned 16 prisoners, 76 cows and calves, and boats laden with ivory and ebony, all probably in relation to Kesh or *Æthiopia*. That of the subsequent line mentions 229 brood mares, 2 worked gold bands, with rings and ingots, probably from the Ru-ten-ru. Still in a most fragmentary state, and containing the almost chaotic *débris* of several tributes, are mentioned wood by the inch, the ell, and the cane, and slaves from the Uksas or Oxus; vases decorated with the heads of goats and lions, or the actual sculptured heads of these animals, and vases of the workmanship of the Tahai or Tauchi. In l. 52 is a mention of mineral wealth, and all kinds of the precious stones of some land the name of which is wanting; other stones and natron; in l. 53, in sen or sesem; l. 54, the measure or rating of the Tahai, frankincense and conserves of dates, or palm-wine, are mentioned. The remainder of the tablet is a fragment which has fallen from the wall; but whether part of the lower portion of the mutilated lines, or rather of the upper lines of the end of the tablet, is not quite certain; in l. 55, 326 calves, 40 white antelopes and goats are mentioned; l. 56, chariots decorated with gold, silver, and paintings, 30 pure persons, probably from Nekarain; l. 57, 13 calves, 580 bulls, 84 asses (only mentioned here) (lead?); l. 58, the Tahai, and flight of ships (?); l. 59, 2 ells of amach-wood, worked by the evil Kesh, and above 300 ingots of gold; l. 60, 250 of some material, 10 prisoners; l. 61 mentions Nekarain,—horses, men, pure men, &c. are mentioned; l. 62, prisoners led by the spirits of his majesty.

Thus closes one of the most important documents for the early history of central Asia. There can scarcely be a doubt that this either is the actual inscription read to Germanicus, or a copy of a similar nature. Tacitus, indeed, says that the inscription referred to Ramses; but this could only apply to the military portion: and the circumstance of the campaigns of Ramses being sculptured on the advanced propylon would account for the mention of this when he had passed through it, and approached the granite sanctuary.

#### LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK:—

**Monday.**—Statistical, 8 P.M.; Chemical, 8 P.M.; Medical, 8 P.M.; Pathological, 8 P.M.

**Tuesday.**—Linnean, 8 P.M.; Horticultural, 3 P.M.; Civil Engineers, 8 P.M.

**Wednesday.**—Society of Arts, 8 P.M.

**Thursday.**—Royal, 8 P.M.; Antiquaries, 8 P.M.

**Friday.**—Royal Institution, 8 P.M., "On the changes produced by invisible (acoustic) radiations;" Geological (anniversary meeting), 1 P.M.

**Saturday.**—Asiatic, 2 P.M.; Westminster Medical, 8 P.M.

#### FINE ARTS.

##### CHARTERED SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS.

The grant of a Royal Charter to this Association, whose annual exhibitions in Suffolk Street have entitled them to this favour and protection, is an event of very high importance to the Fine Arts of Great Britain. Independent, therefore, of the "great

fact," and its future consequences, it may gratify our readers to have some little history of the transaction.

The earliest step was a Memorial presented to the late Home Secretary, Sir James Graham, in May 1846; and recalled to the attention of his successor, Sir George Grey, in September. This document was signed not only by the Members of the Society, but also by a hundred and twenty-three other Artists, and by a very considerable number of distinguished Patrons of Art, including several of the nobility, members of Parliament, and various branches of the aristocracies of title and wealth. Among these the Society had the valuable advantage of counting Mr. Wyse, whose advice and assistance contributed largely to the attainment of their object. Mr. Wyse headed the deputation on presenting the Memorial; and, no doubt, when his friends and party came into power, his influence was the stronger with the government on their behalf.

And so the Charter was obtained; and we have now a second body incorporated for the advancement of the National Arts, enlarging the bounds which limited them, their cultivation, and cultivation, and serving as a spur of no mean utility in the hitherto oligarchical quarters where all authority was reposed. We are no adversary to the Royal Academy; but its doings have long been disturbed by many complaints; and it will do no harm (however good its defences may have been or may be) that there should be another competing and powerful body in the field. It will stimulate the Academy, and enforce the necessity for justice and liberality; and if these are wanting, it will be a refuge for the oppressed. But, to return to the Charter, we may state that it is of a very comprehensive and liberal nature. The royal grant has the following introductory words:

"We, &c., willing that every encouragement be extended freely to all who use their praiseworthy endeavours to aid and promote the Fine Arts in this our realm, and thus to add to the more elevated and refined enjoyments of our loving subjects, have given, granted," &c. &c. Going on, we find that a new feature in the Society, as thus incorporated, consists in the foundation of a school and lectures, and that the Charter contains also a clause for making a provision for any member who may become destitute, or for his widow or orphans. We learn farther that no fine may be imposed on the withdrawal of any member of the corporation, and that the maximum of any member's subscriptions and fines in the whole for one year is limited to twenty pounds.

In all other respects the Charter is a comprehensive of simple straightforward regulations for conducting and facilitating the affairs of the Society; and there are no special or exclusive clauses or powers whatsoever.

The last clause makes it null and void whenever the number of members shall be reduced to fewer than ten; and the date is 3d Feb. inst. One of the most interesting parts of the change, perhaps, is the proposed school, which has been taken up and resolved upon with so much energy and earnestness of purpose by the Society, as to offer the surest element of success; or the maxim is false which declares, that the gods help those who help themselves.

Altogether we congratulate the country on the completion of this memorable act, which we are inclined to think will form as marked and beneficial an epoch in the history of English Fine Arts as the first incorporation and Charter of King George the Third; and do as much service to the arts and artists generally, as any measure which could by possibility have been adopted.

#### THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.

We feel rather disinclined to enter upon our usual task in regard to the Exhibition of the year this the first week after its opening. With all our love for our native school, the truth must be spoken,

that we are somewhat disappointed with it. There are not many productions above common mediocrity; and we think there is reason to complain that the line of the eye is much occupied by a number of very small merit, whilst pictures of a superior order are badly hung. In short, the collection, upon the whole, is the worst we have seen for years. Out of a thousand pieces sent in, about 550 are placed on the walls, of which certainly not above 5 per cent are creditable to British art. There are, it is true, works shewing an advance in several of the rising generation, but even these are comparatively few. In other cases, artists who we know can paint, seem to fancy that if they send in any pictures at all it is enough, and any thing is good enough for the British Institution. Impressed with these opinions, we are (as observed) indisposed to go into details at present. It will afford us much pleasure hereafter to advert to the best; and if we must notice the abortive, it will only be in hope that censure will lead to exertion and ultimate success.

## FRANCE.

Paris, Feb. 9, 1847.

THE prosecution of M. Alex. Dumas (Davy, Marquis de la Paillette) is still a source of diversion to the public. I will just mention one more episode which is rather curious. In his celebrated oration of last week—an oration which, together with the magnificent speech of M. Berryer, has engrossed the attention of the public—M. Dumas had advanced a fact perfectly incredible to all those who know him.

According to him, a novel which had been completed (*Fabien*), but refused by the journal *La Presse*, and which, after perusal, the author had considered rather unworthy of his talents, had been magnanimously consigned to the flames. This novel was written in three volumes. This was, then (always according to M. Dumas), a sacrifice of 27,000 francs (somewhat more than 1000£), which he had voluntarily imposed upon himself for the sake of his fame. In court, however, the counsel for *La Presse* proved, with the printed volumes in his hands, that this *Fabien*, so heroically consumed by M. Dumas, had arisen from the flames safe and sound, like the phoenix of old, to assume, at the printer's hands, a form which will ensure to it an immortality of a few months' duration; with this difference, however, that, during this fearful trial, the book lost its cognomen, lost even its father; and has been published under this title: *Aventures de quatre Femmes et d'un Perroquet*, by M. Alex. Dumas, Junior. I leave you to imagine how much the audience was entertained by this unexpected revelation. M. Dumas, who had probably received a hint on the subject, took especial care not to be there to receive, full tilt, this admirable lounge.

And again, his indiscretion relative to the friendship with which he is honoured by the Duke de Montpensier has brought on a degree of coldness between his royal highness and the novelist. Some talk of a certain little note full of wit, in which the Prince begged to decline the honour of continuing relations so singularly bruited about; others assert that, having presented himself at the Prince's palace for the purpose of apologising for his impetuous boasting, he was received by the ex-tutor of the Prince, M. Antoine de Latour, who had the commission of notifying to him a rupture which he had rendered unavoidable.

Here is a fact, for the truth of which I can vouch personally. Before leaving Madrid, M. Dumas, being desirous of testifying his gratitude to an attaché of the embassy who had rendered him some trifling services, offered him, with much rade and solemnity, a sword with a gold handle, which he wore at the marriage-festivities.

Since we have mentioned the Duke de Montpensier, let me tell you of a good caricature which is circulated here, under the rose, respecting his marriage. It represents the young duke and his charming bride strolling, arm in arm, amongst some

verdant groves, in the attitude of impassioned lovers; a poor shareholder whom this *entente cordiale* leads to presume that the Duchess of Montpensier will take the lead of her sister, and by her precocious fecundity jeopardise the equilibrium of European affairs, looks on in despair, exclaiming, *Les malheureux—il vont faire baisser mon Nord.*\*

*Le Vieux de la Montagne*, a five-act tragedy, written in verse by M. Latour Saint Ibars, the author of *Virginie*, met with a very cold reception last Saturday, at the Théâtre Français. And yet Mdlle. Rachel filled the principal part of this tragedy, the original conception of which is most common-place, and which is further very poorly versified. The following is a sketch of it in few words: Hassan, *Scheikh-el-Zebel*, anglicised the Lord (not the *vieux*, or old man) of the Mountain, has a daughter of the name of Fatima, who has been some time a prisoner amongst the Christians, and been treated by them with all the regard due to her rank. Her father destined her for the chief of a horde of wandering Arabs; who, in consideration of this marriage, promises him the help of 2000 horsemen. But Fatima is lingering to death from the effect of an unknown malady, against the encroachments of which the science of doctors cannot prevail.

This malady is the secret love she entertains for Paul de Sabran, a young Knight Templar, the same who had formerly taken her prisoner, and had watched over her with all the affection of a brother. Now Paul de Sabran is himself a prisoner of the *Vieux de la Montagne*, who is on the point of putting him to death to please Ismael, his future son-in-law, when suddenly Fatima sees and recognises the young knight. Henceforth, her whole thoughts are bent upon saving him; and, adopting the most direct way to effect this, she discloses to her father her love for the handsome Nazarene. The *Vieux de la Montagne* takes the matter in good part; and renouncing suddenly all ideas of allying himself with Ismael—he is wholly engrossed with the idea of marrying Fatima to the man she has chosen. But here he is nonplussed. Paul de Sabran who, on his part, entertains for Fatima a violent passion, which he yet conceals with care, declines the marriage which is proposed to him, as being in opposition to his honour as a Knight Templar. On seeing this, and after vainly endeavouring to overcome this unexpected resistance, the *Vieux* resorts to his former designs, encouraging again the suit of Ismael, and offers to Sabran the disagreeable alternative of being-married or hanged.

The question thus put is easy of solution for the brave knight; but if he has all the requisite courage to yield his head to the Fédavies of the terrible Hassan, his strength fails before the tender remonstrance of the fascinating Fatima. So much so, that after an heroic resistance, during the course of which he has been two or three times well-nigh immolated,—a consummation which is always prevented by Fatima, now by prayers, now dagger in hand,—the fierce Templar yields at last, and suffers himself to be blessed by the *Vieux de la Montagne*, who is in ecstacies at having encompassed for his daughter a love-match instead of the *mariage de convenance* which he had at first proposed. But Ismael, on the other hand, has tolerable good reasons for being dissatisfied with the perfidious old fellow. Accordingly, he so manages matters, through some misunderstanding, that three assassins sent in the first act by the terrible Scheik, and subsequently countermanded by him in consequence of the marriage concluded with Sabran, still fulfil their bloody task; and one of these assassins stabs the old father of the Christian bridegroom, recently disembarked at Damietta. At this news, Sabran reproaches himself bitterly for his cowardly acquiescence, and will not have any further mention of the proposed match. The *Vieux* then reverts to his old dodge, "to marry or die;" and if Fatima did not expressly and decidedly threaten to stab herself then and there, on the

death of her lover, I fancy that this time, for a wonder, the threats of the "King of the Assassins" would verily be carried into execution. However, this evil is averted, and Hassan, who justly considers himself incapable of wielding the sceptre after a concession which degrades him in the eyes of his subjects, talks of nothing less than abdication. In the mean while, Fatima is intent upon favouring the escape of her lover; they are exchanging the most tender and touching adieus, and are on the point of separating for ever, when a revolt fomented by the Arab Ismael suddenly breaks out against the authority of Hassan. Paul de Sabran immediately takes the lead of his fellow-prisoners, and the rebels shrink before his redoubled blade; but he is mortally wounded, and only returns to die in the arms of Fatima, who guards carefully against surviving him.

If the play is intrinsically not worth much, the part of Fatima is especially unfavourable to the peculiar talents of Mdlle. Rachel; for this part is but a feeble reproduction of the part of Pauline (in the *Polyeucte* of Corneille), in which she had produced a great effect, and which the spectators could compare with this last creation, so much inferior to it.

Mdlle. Rose Chéri has just created a character in which you will doubtless soon see her act; for her approaching departure for London is announced. The subject is a young girl who has fallen unwittingly under the *magnetic* influence of a brilliant seducer, an adept pupil of Mesmer. On this occasion, MM. Scribe and Lockroy have founded a very absurd but very amusing vaudeville in two acts, called *Irène, ou le Magnétisme*. I will not give it to you in detail; for I prefer mentioning an act which greatly honours the charming actress I have named. She is on the point of marrying the lessee of the Gymnase; and the affianced pair, of common accord, have resolved to leave to the family of the bride all the savings she has accumulated since the beginning of her theatrical career. This is not all. The representations which Mdlle. Rose Chéri is on the point of giving in London will produce, independently of all personal expenses, a sum of 18,000 francs (780£). The generous couple have postponed their marriage till the return of Mdlle. Rose Chéri from London; so that this sum may be added to the kind of legacy which she bequeaths during her life to her father and sisters. Such an action stands in need of no comment.

## GERMANY.

[From our own Correspondent.]

On the 16th of January, the venerable Neander celebrated his birth-day at Berlin, and, according to custom, the greater part of his more intimate acquaintances met at dinner at his house, besides the principal theological and historical professors of the university, his younger friends and scholars, and the deputies sent by the students. Many affectionate allusions were made to the debt of gratitude which most of those present owed the celebrated professor: Ehrenberg spoke of the importance of Neander's great work on Church History, and another mentioned the high estimation in which he was held abroad. It is him that Edgar Quinet names "une des âmes les plus élevées de l'Allemagne." In the evening the students appeared in great numbers before his house, with torches, and song, and music; a deputation of the students then brought a large drinking-cup, which they offered to their honoured teacher as a birth-day gift to him, "the man of freedom, of love, and of faith; to the man who first introduced them all to a right understanding of the revelation of divine truth and divine beauty, and in whose hand they freely and joyfully deposited the vow which they had made to remain true to the recognised truth." Allusion was also made at this interesting festival to a work which has lately appeared at Potsdam; a translation, namely, of "the memoirs of the great Englishman," Thomas Arnold; which, in compliance with Neander's wish, one of his scholars un-

\* *Mon Nord*, used for "My Northern railway-shares."

dertook to translate. The motto affixed to the work by Neander is as follows: "We have here rich memoirs of the life of one of the noblest and most enlightened men of this age;" an opinion to which all who knew Arnold will heartily subscribe.

Alexander Von Humboldt has just received the order of the Black Eagle from the hands of the King of Prussia. It was presented to him on the 18th of January, with the remark, "That the day from which the throne of Prussia dates its existence, and that on which the order of the Black Eagle was founded, could not be celebrated more worthily than by bestowing it on the most worthy representative of science in Prussia." Leverrier and Mädler were among the newly decorated. To this day all persons have been long and anxiously looking forward, it being confidently expected that it would be chosen as the one on which to announce the existence of a constitution for Prussia. The certainty with which it was looked for makes the disappointment proportionably great. So sure was every one of the truth of what was thus, in all quarters, so confidently reported, that the great news was looked for literally from one hour to the other. The day came, and brought nothing with it: it passed, and left nothing behind it.

The landslip mentioned lately as having taken place near Bonn, continues to attract many visitors, and not only from the neighbourhood, but from greater distances. The innkeepers around the spot are deriving a rich harvest from the occurrence.

The friends of Jenny Lind at Vienna have had a medal executed to commemorate her stay there. The enthusiasm produced by her last visit was greater than when she went there for the first time. We are curious as to the reception she will meet with in London; we could only wish that the theatre where she will have to sing were of less immense proportions than the Italian Opera House. She herself has a dread of large theatres. But she will doubtless give some concerts, in which her wonderful tones will be more advantageously heard.

#### ORIGINAL, AND CURIOSITIES OF LITERATURE.

##### ST. VALENTINE'S DAY.

THE mission of Valentines is one of the very few old customs not on the wane; and as the streets of our metropolis have for the last fortnight practically been evidence of this fact in the distribution of love-messages on our stalls and shop-windows, varying in price from half-a-crown to one half-penny, a few brief remarks on the coming eventful day, this year unfortunately on a Sunday (to-morrow), may not be unacceptable. Our readers, no doubt, will ask for its origin, and there we are at fault to begin with. The events of St. Valentine's life furnish no clue whatever to the mystery, although Wheatley, in his *Illustration of the Common Prayer*, absurdly disposes the question in this way: "St. Valentine was a man of most admirable parts, and so famous for his love and charity, that the custom of choosing Valentines upon his festival, which is still practised, took its rise from thence." We see no explanation here in any way satisfactory, and must be contented with the hope that some of our antiquaries may hit on something more to the purpose.

Valentine's Day has long been popularly believed to be the day on which birds pair. Shakespeare alludes to this belief:

"Good morrow, friends; St. Valentine is past;  
Begin these wood-birds but to couple now?"

It was anciently the custom to draw lots on this day. The names of an equal number of each sex were put into a box, in separate partitions, out of which every one present drew a name, called the Valentine, which was regarded as a good omen of their future marriage. It would appear from a curious passage quoted in Halliwell's *Dictionary*, that any lover was hence termed a Valentine; not necessarily an affianced lover, as suggested in Hampson's *Calendarium*, vol. i. p. 163. Lydgate, the poet

of Bury, in the fifteenth century, thus mentions this practice:

"Saint Valentine, of custom year by year  
Men have an usance in this region  
To look and search Cupid's calendar,  
And choose their choice by great affection;  
Such as be prick'd with Cupid's motion  
Taking their choice as their lot doth fall:  
But I love one which excelleth all."

Gay alludes to another popular notion referring to the same day:

"Last Valentine, the day when birds of kind  
Their paramours with mutual chirpings find,  
I early rose, just at the break of day,  
Before the sun had chas'd the stars away;  
Afraid I went, amid the burning dew,  
To milk my kine, for so should housewives do.  
Thee first I spied; and the first-swan we see,  
In spite of fortune, shall our true love be."

The divinations practised on Valentine's Day is a curious subject. Herrick mentions one by rose-buds:

"She must no more a-maying;  
Or by rose-buds divine  
Who'll be her Valentine."

Perhaps the poet may here allude to a practice similar to the following, quoted by Brande: "Last Friday was Valentine Day; and the night before I got five bay-leaves, and pinned four of them to the four corners of my pillow, and the fifth to the middle; and then, if I dreamt of my sweetheart, Betty said we should be married before the year was out. *But to make it more sure I boiled an egg hard, and took out the yolk, and filled it with salt; and when I went to bed, eat it shell and all, without speaking or drinking after it.* We also wrote our lovers' names upon bits of paper, and rolled them up in clay, and put them into water: and the first that rose up was to be our Valentine. Would you think it? Mr. Blossom was my man. I lay a-bed, and shut my eyes all the morning, till he came to our house, for I would not have seen another man before him for all the world."

We believe the old custom of drawing lots on this eventful day is obsolete, and has given place to the favourite practice of sending pictures, with poetical legends, to objects of love or ridicule. The lower classes, however, seldom treat the matter with levity, and many are the offers of marriage thus made. The clerks at the post-offices are most to be pitied; the immense increase of letters beyond the usual average adding very inconveniently to their labours.

A. L.

#### THE DRAMA.

*Covent Garden Opera.*—The projectors of this rival house for Italian Opera (or, as they style it, "The Lyric Drama") and Ballet, have issued a potent winter prospectus for the season, to begin in April, in opposition to the attractive manifesto promulgated by Mr. Lumley. "When Greek meets Greek," &c. &c. The latter has the advantage of at least a six week's start; and it seems certain that he has secured Jenny Lind, a novelty of the foremost German fame, and, according to our accounts, a star of the first magnitude among the brightest in the dramatic firmament. Mr. L. is also very strong in ballet. Against these popular features Covent Garden sets forth Fanny Elssler, a high ballet-card, and a fair pair to play with her; and in the musical line, to Grisi, Persiani, Mario, Tamburini (names and talents of a leading order) are added several excellent artists and artistes already well known to the English public, and others of celebrity from the principal theatres in Europe. It is thus obvious that there is likely to be a vigorous competition, by which the public cannot be losers.

*Princess's.*—On Tuesday Bellini's opera of *Norma* was produced here, for the purpose of introducing to the stage Miss Anne Romer, who took the part of *Adelgisa*. Her voice is a soprano of pure quality, and she will no doubt make her way as one of our very best second-rate singers. She sang the music allotted to her with taste and judgment, and her intonation is faultless. From her style we should imagine her to be another of Mr. Crevilli's very

successful pupils. Of the rest of the opera we cannot speak favourably. Miss Bassano's *Norma* was a fearful and unavailing effort from beginning to end. Mr. Allen, who (spite of a poor voice) generally sings correctly, was out of time, tune, and every thing else; and Mr. Leffler gave us a somewhat new and exceeding comical interpretation of the music of *Oroveso*. In short, we think it is a mistake in this theatre to aim at the highest range of opera with its present means. Falling short of excellence, such attempts can only lead to failure, for those who really understand and enjoy such productions must have them of a superior order; and thus the theatre where they are ill done only attracts the uninformed.

*Haymarket.*—The new comedy, with judicious alterations, has been successfully performed to full houses ever since our brief notice of it; and there therefore seems to be no need of further detail.

*St. James's.*—*Le Docteur Noir*, a drama founded on the colonial prejudices against men of colour, has been played with much effect, though it is a strange tableau drama, in seven acts and seven pictures. Lemaitre and Clarisse were its great supporters.

*Adelphi.*—On Thursday, the *Green Bushes* was revived, with the original cast, and great success. Mrs. Yates and Mrs. Fitzwilliam, with the *Wild Murtagh*, O. Smith, are enough to ensure a more prosperous run for Irish affairs than all the measures brought into parliament.

#### ORIGINAL POETRY.

##### THE SONG OF FAMINE.

GAUNT stealthy Famine, the brother of Death,  
My night-black wings o'er the nations I spread,  
I burden the air with my blood-chilling breath,  
And the graves are filled with dead.

The fields are deserted, the plough is at rest,  
Echo sleeps on the hushed wind's breast,  
Even the birds are afraid to sing—  
To waken the silence with carolling.  
No infant voices, blithesome and clear,  
With halloo and laughter break on the ear.—  
No more they race round the now ruined cot;  
The games and the merriments all are forgot;  
For spectre-like—cold,  
On the bare earth they lie:  
Their minutes are told,  
They are wailing to die.

Pale mothers kiss their children at night—  
The children are orphans ere morning light;  
Sinewy limbs grow weak and shrunken,  
Merry eyes grow dim.—deep-sunken;  
Brother to brother's eyes gaze deep,—  
Eyes which have not even tears to weep,—  
And with numbed crushed heart,  
Too dead to smart,  
Reckons when either must fall to sleep.

All, all is desolate, vacant, and still,—  
All, all is blighted, and withered with woe,—  
All, all is deathly, and pallid, and chill,  
Wherever my wing's low-ring shadow I throw.  
I ripen the corn for my pale brother's scythe  
Long, long ere Nature can:  
Man cannot wrest food from the hard giftless earth,  
So I fatten the earth with man!

FRED. F. GREENWOOD.

#### THE LOST.

THE lost! oh, what are they, the dead?

Alas, there is a grave  
To which the many Lost have fled,  
We might, yet would not save!  
Lost time, which never more can be;

Lost joys, whose sun hath set;  
Lost friends, whose tomb is Memory,  
Whose memory is Regret!

How like a churchyard is the heart  
By buried reliques crossed;  
The dead are but a tible, a part  
Of what the Heart hath lost!  
The dead have an immortal dower  
O'er which the soul may muse;  
But, oh, the Lost! there's not an hour  
We live yet nothing lose!

Ah me! the mystery of fate,  
The sorrow and the thrall,  
How quick we learn to estimate  
What we can never recall!  
Lost hope, that, like an akeless dove,  
Hath fled this world of care;  
Lost peace, lost happiness, lost love,  
Dispers'd, like things of air!

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Yon sphere that shines from earth so far  
Finds yet some earthly trace;  
How many a bright and glorious star  
Hath perished from its face!  
Oh, stars of heaven! and can ye fall?  
Can ye by storms be tossed?  
Alas for hope! alas for all!  
We loved, and we have lost!  
E'en Nature for her Woods deplores,  
Earth for her Cities gone,  
Ocean for empires, and for shores  
O'er which her tides sweep on!  
Nor heaven, nor earth, nor man, escapes,  
Nor element, nor clime;  
All bow before that Hand which shapes  
The destinies of time!

CHARLES SWAIN.

## VARIETIES.

*William Howitt's Homes and Haunts of British Poets.*—One passage in the *Literary Gazette* review of this work has been quoted and commented upon with as much sense and justice, either for praise or censure, as it would be to pick a grain out of a handful, and thence determine the quality of all the rest. We need not tell our own readers with what a modicum of commendation was conjoined a great deal of severe condemnation. We said, and we said truly, that the author had used much diligence in traversing the country to gain intelligence for his work, and we bore witness to his talent: will any one say that he did not travel throughout the kingdom to almost every spot where he could learn any thing to illustrate his subject; or that he is a written destitute of talent? And will any one blame more severely than we did his presumptuous manner of conducting himself upon all occasions, and the offensive manner which pervades his publication? We are not of that tribe who can discern nothing but faults, are blind to merits, and delight in wretched squabbles, as if loving to live in everlasting hot water. Among the rest of Mr. Howitt's manifold offences, he is accused of having made his "book to sell:" now we never thought of abusing him for this, as we know of very few books not produced for that felonious purpose; and we are not sure that the abuse so liberally lavished on them is not also *made to sell!* Our system is, to notice the good and reprove the bad; the opposite system is to revel on the bad, and leave the good undiscovered, neglected, or depreciated. The public must decide which is the best and fairest course, and the best suited for the promotion of literature.

*The Parricide*, No. I., by G. W. Reynolds, is the commencement of a story of guilt, of which we cannot speak till we see how it is conducted, and whether it enforces moral ends, or is a mere narrative of crime.

*The North of England Sketch-Book*, No. I., is of mixed character, inclining to the balance of considerable merit. Four fair woodcuts introduce us to a northern legend of the unfortunate Derwentwater family, not very well told, nor good enough to stand in front of the battle for a new publication. An historical account of Barnard Castle is, on the contrary, a superior paper, and would do credit to any periodical. The other tales and poems are of at least the ordinary calibre of such productions; and we would only suggest the advantage of having as few of them in low-life as may consist with variety. This class is the rot of the day in serial, and, we are sorry to say, in many other sorts of literature; and "Abraham Sims" of the *North of England Sketch-Book* is but a specimen of the evil and too prevalent example.

*Alderman Johnson*.—A dinner, by his friends and admirers in Westminster, was given to the late Lord Mayor at Willis's Rooms, on Monday, when a company of above 250 sat down to table. Mr. Talbot, Q.C., presided; and in proposing the toast of the evening, did honour to the liberality and beneficence of this highly and universally esteemed citizen, whose straightforward integrity of character, firmness, and John Bull plain-dealing, springing from the best foundations of sound common sense, astuteness of intellect, and good feeling, well

merited the eulogy so eloquently expressed and so enthusiastically received by the meeting. Dear Buckland also spoke on the occasion, and charmed the party with his good humour and facetiousness.

*Foreign Honours.*—We learn with pleasure that the King of Denmark, himself a good practical geologist, who takes hammer or tray in hand, has followed the example of the Emperor of Russia in bestowing a royal honour on our countryman Sir R. I. Murchison, in acknowledgment of his geological services in the north of Europe. His Majesty has conferred upon him the insignia of Knight Commander of the Royal Danish order of Dannebrog.

*Mr. Eaton Hodgkinson*, the able engineer and mechanician, has been elected to the chair of a new professorship of the Mechanical Principles of Engineering, instituted in the London University College.

*Hulda's Testimonial Fund*, *Exeter Hall*.—The second concert was performed on Monday evening, and revived many compositions of old English composers—such as Blow, Purcell, Rogers, Humphreys, Wise, Reading, and Lock. Miss Rainforth, Miss Dolby, and Mr. Lockey, did ample justice to those where an opportunity was afforded them.

*Obituary.*—In the obituary of the week is the name of Mr. George Walker, music-publisher, Soho Square, in his 75th year. His earlier years were devoted to literary pursuits; and he acquired popularity by his romance of the *Three Spaniards*, in particular; though he also produced *Don Raphaele*, the *House of Tyrian*, and several other works of fiction.

*Mr. George Robins*, the renowned auctioneer, died at Brighton, on Monday, after a long illness, terminating in dropsy. He was about seventy years of age; and, we need not say, made much noise in this busy Babylon of ours during the moiety of these years. His literary performances, in announcing sales, were altogether unique; and even in their insulated shapes attracted no small share of public notice. If they were collected, we are convinced that such another publication never appeared in this world. Yet grotesque as they were, and often so inflated and burlesque that it was scarcely possible to believe them to be earnest and for business' sake, Mr. Robins managed, through them, to obtain extensive professional employment, and to amass (we believe) a very large fortune. He was intimately concerned in theatrical matters, and had much influence in Drury Lane and Covent Garden, both in respect to money and management. He has left a young widow (his second wife) and a family of six children, of whose appearance and accomplishments he, as a father, was justly proud.

*Mrs. Blaquierre*, the widow of Captain Blaquierre, of the Royal Navy, died on the 4th inst. at Bath. She shared in her husband's literary labours, and was left unhappily alone; for the fate of the vessel in which he sailed was never heard of by his anxious partner.

*The Cholera* is stated to be committing ravages on the shores of the Red Sea, so as to enforce the necessity of precautions against its being transmitted to Europe from Egypt.

*An Earthquake* of severe character had, according to the latest accounts, occurred at Aleppo.

*A naive Trade-Confession.*—A highly respectable retail-dealer in one of the principal thoroughfares of London, justifying himself from the charge of ruinous dealings, said, very naively, "This is the fourth time within two years that I have sold off my stock at considerable loss, with considerable profit!"

## LITERARY NOVELTIES.

## LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

A Lytell Geste of Robin Hode, with other Ballads, edited by J. M. Gutch, F.S.A., with numerous Illustrations, 2 vols. 8vo, 30s. The Specimen Flora, arranged by the Author of the "Pictorial Flora," 8vo, 21s. silk.—Jean's Plane and Spherical Trigonometry, Part II. 12mo, 5s.—Poetical Chronology, by the Rev. Dr. Brewer, 12mo, 2s. 6d.

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DENT'S TABLE FOR THE EQUATION OF TIME.  
[This table shews the time which a clock or watch should indicate when the sun is on the meridian.]

1847.	h. m. s.	1847.	h. m. s.
Feb. 13 . . .	12 14 30-3	Feb. 17 . . .	12 14 18 9
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16 . . .	— 14 22-9		

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Dr. Bromet has written to us to say that the paper by the Hon. R. C. Nevil, read at the Society of Antiquaries on the 4th, was communicated by the Director.

We should be happy to oblige "A Country Lady;" but we can only say that the Barringtonian anecdote was one relating (if we rightly remember) to the Wild Irish-Girl, told us, in conversation, by his friend, Sir C. F., and not fit to be published. Quotations used ludicrously to be said to be "translated for the benefit of Country Gentlemen;" but we cannot in this instance do any thing for the curiosity of "A Country Lady."

No. I. of Duffy's *Irish Catholic Magazine*, devoted to the Romish religion, and Irish subjects in general, has been received, and seems well calculated to promote the objects it has in view.

## THE ORBIT OF THE SUN.

To the Editor of the *Literary Gazette*.

27 Mornington Place, Hampstead Road, Feb. 3d, 1847.

Sir.—With reference to my observations on this subject in the *Literary Gazette* of the 23d and 30th of January ult. give me leave to adjust the oversights of three of my authorities of the Dublin reporter, of your excellent typographer, and lastly, though not least, of myself.

Firstly, as regards the first of these communications. The Dublin error is not in the *period*, but in the stated rate of *velocity*. The *period* is not 183,000,000 of years, as quoted at St. Petersburg, or 89,000,000, as inferred by me from the stated *velocity*, but in all probability 18,300,000 years, quoted 18,000,000 at Dublin. The *velocity* is not 8 miles per second, but in all probability 18, as calculated by a correspondent and friend, who knows much better how to estimate the attraction of 117,000,000 of masses than myself.

Secondly.—In my letter at p. 92 of the *Literary Gazette* of January 30th, the transposition of the period from "Taurus" in the seventh line of the third paragraph to "Planets" in the sixth line has transposed the solar system from the *ascending* to the *descending* node of the sun's orbit. In the fourth line of the fifth paragraph "rotations" appears instead of "relations."

The context would enable a reflecting reader to correct such oversights; but in connexion with the first there is a more important one of my own. I overlooked the latitude of Alcyone or  $\tau$  Tauri, the central sun of Prof. Mädler. This gives an inclination of  $4^{\circ}$  to the axis of the sun's orbit, by which space he is yet removed from his *ascending* node in longitude  $237^{\circ}$  as is his primary so much beyond the *descending* node in longitude  $57^{\circ}$ ; so that, although not precisely in the nodes, the theory leaves no doubt regarding the calculated position of both of them.

Again, the proximate historical explanation to which I have alluded (*Lit. Gaz.* Jan. 30th), clearly refers our first solar equinox to the *fourth* day or period of the record: so that the *first* day and its corresponding *degree* anticipated the earth's node about as much as does the calculated position of the sun anticipate the place of his node on the same orbit; and the permanent coincidence of the sun's place extends itself to the above-mentioned difference of latitude: for, as the calculated orbit of the sun is nearly at right angles with the ecliptic, his *period* of 18,300,000 years supposes a secular change of about  $7''$  in latitude, or not more than  $7$  min. in 6000 years, to affect the above-mentioned character of permanence: changes so minute as to have hitherto escaped observation; and to which the attention of astronomers may probably now be directed.—I am, &c.

ISAAC CULLIMORE.



8 New Burlington Street, Feb. 13, 1847.

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